



MY LIFE OF HELL WITH MAILER

'Norman charged in and gored me with a dirty three-inch penknife'
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PORTILLO ON NATO

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Libby Purves praises the counsellors who had the bottle to quit
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Mowlam tries to reassure Catholics

Ulster faces second night of violence

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SCORES of armoured-plated police Land Rovers poured into the village of Bellaghy in Northern Ireland last night to try to prevent clashes between Orange marchers and local Roman Catholics.

Localists agreed to restrict their march through the village in Co Londonderry after the rioting that accompanied the parade at Drumcree on Sunday. Nevertheless, Catholics hurled bricks and placards at police in riot gear who had formed a cordon to separate the two groups.

The Bellaghy parade was rerouted as Mo Mowlam, the Northern Ireland Secretary, indicated that she would take a tougher approach to the Protestant marching season next year. She made clear that she would adopt the North Report, which recommended that the Independent Parades Commission should decide whether contentious parades should go ahead.

In the meantime, she was seeking more flexibility from Orange Order leaders, whom she met at Stormont Castle last night. "I expect to see some willingness and understanding of the events of this weekend reflected in their

words and actions during the days ahead. There can and should be no triumphalism."

She was referring to the violence on Sunday night after the RUC allowed Orangemen to march down the Catholic Garvaghy Road into Portadown under guard of 1,500 police and troops. In the most serious republican riots since the 1981 hunger strikes, youths hijacked and burnt cars while the IRA and the INLA launched gun and bomb attacks on police stations across the province.

More than 100 people were hurt in the clashes, including 46 police. Two 14-year-old boys were still seriously ill in hospital yesterday: a Roman Catholic hit in the head by a plastic bullet, and a Protestant who was hit on the shoulder by a stray bullet as gunmen opened fire on the police.

The RUC said that there were 548 attacks on the security forces during the night, 221 hijackings and 691 petrol bombings. Police fired 1,600 plastic bullets and a number of live rounds, and 41 people were arrested.

Dr Mowlam understood nationalist anger, but said: "Nothing justifies the orches-

trated violence we have seen over the past 24 hours. I appeal to everyone and all those with influence to call for an end to violence immediately. I understand the frustration, but demonstrating in this way does no one any good. And it costs us dear."

But in spite of her appeal, the IRA stepped up its campaign last night with a series of bomb warnings to Belfast hotels. Rioters were also back on the streets of the city and in other towns, throwing petrol bombs at the security forces and hijacking and burning vehicles. In south Belfast, a body was found near the scene of a small explosion on the nationalist Drumcree estate.

Dr Mowlam was criticised by nationalists for allowing the Drumcree march to go ahead and leaders of residents' groups in Garvaghy Road and the Lower Ormeau Road in Belfast — which could be the next flashpoint on Saturday — said that they wanted nothing to do with her. Brenda McKenna of the Garvaghy Residents' Coalition said Dr Mowlam should resign. "We have been betrayed,"

Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Féin, said the Government had failed its first test. "Once again the Orange card has triumphed. The question Mr Blair must answer is how does he propose to bridge the huge gulf which the Garvaghy Road decision has created."

But the Prime Minister backed Dr Mowlam, and he was said to have had a "positive and constructive" conversation with the Irish Prime Minister, Bertie Ahern, who has been muted in his criticism of the Government, believing that Dr Mowlam went out of her way to try to secure a compromise between the two sides.

Further conflict seems likely on Saturday morning, when Orangemen attempt to march down the Lower Ormeau Road to join the main July 12 parade in Belfast city centre. Gerard Rice of the Lower Ormeau Concerned Community said he would oppose the march, while Orangemen were adamant that it would go ahead. The final decision will be left with the RUC.

Past glory, page 6
Letters, page 21



One of the injured victims of the coach crash is carried to safety. The most seriously hurt were ferried to hospital by three helicopters

Pupils die in French bus crash

By ADRIAN LEE
IN MOUTIERS
SUSAN BELL
AND ROBIN YOUNG

TWO British teenagers died and 25 of their companions were in hospital last night after a coach carrying them on a school holiday fell 70ft into a ravine in the French Alps.

Nicola Moore, 16, was killed instantly when, without warning, the coach veered off the narrow winding road between the villages of Notre Dame du Pré and Longefoy.

As anxious parents and teachers gathered at St James's Church of England School in Farnworth, Bolton, they were told that Robert Boardman, 14, had died in hospital from his injuries.

His best friend, Keith Riddings, 14, who was sitting beside him on the coach, was taken in a critical condition to a hospital in Moutiers. Later, as arrangements were made to fly out his mother, he was transferred to a specialist head injuries unit in Grenoble.

David Bowes, headmaster of St James's School, said: "Everyone is numb with shock. Two families are grieving and we grieve with them."

The youngsters, aged between 11 and 16, were on a week's adventure holiday and had been rock climbing and white water rafting. They were due to return home on Friday. Sixteen of the children and three of their teachers had

separated from the rest of the party of 46 for a visit to a popular rock climbing site.

The French police were still investigating the cause of the crash last night. It happened in perfect weather on what they described as a "very narrow and dangerous road". They said no other vehicle had been involved.

However, Michel Barnier, president of the regional council for the Haute Savoie department said that although the investigation was proceeding, driver error appeared to be the most likely cause of the accident.

The party had switched to a locally rented French vehicle after their own coach broke down. French vehicles do not have to meet such strict safety standards as British coaches. It was not known last night whether the French coach was fitted with seat belts.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard Belondrade, for the police, described how the coach had careened off the road and into the gorge. It then slammed against a tree and toppled onto its side. Witnesses said that the dense forest prevented the green and white coach falling still further and causing even more casualties.

Three helicopters took the most seriously injured to two hospitals at Moutiers and Bourg-St Maurice. Jean-Claude Gayssot, the Transport Minister, visited the injured last night.

Brian Pullen, the British consul, who also saw the injured youngsters, said: "Not all of them are well enough to be told that two of their friends have died. They are all very shocked and very distressed." He added that many of the children had cuts and bruises, but ten had sustained more



Nicola Moore: the girl who died in the crash

Shots shatter boys' football dreams

By AUDREY MAGEE AND NICHOLAS WATT

THE two boys of 14 from either side of the sectarian divide who were injured after being shot during the rioting in Belfast last night have had their football dreams shattered.

Craig McCann, a Protestant, was shot above the heart by Republican gunmen as he peered over the wall of the peace line dividing Protestant and Catholic Belfast. He is goalkeeper with the local Protestant Shankill team and was to go for a trial with Chelsea later this summer. He recently returned from a cross-community trip of Protestants and Catholics to Germany. He was out of intensive care last night.

Gary Lawler, a Catholic, was shot in the back of the head with a plastic bullet fired by police during rioting in nationalist West Belfast. He

plays for the Catholic Newhall team. He has had trials in Manchester and Liverpool. His condition was critical last night.

The boys underwent major surgery yesterday in separate Belfast hospitals.

Phil, a 17-year-old friend who was beside Craig when he was shot, said that Craig lived for football, but might never be able to play again. He said: "We were just hanging over the wall when we saw two masked men come out of a house with guns. They fired at us — rat-tat-tat, it went. I ducked but Craig got hit. He jumped off the wall, walked across the grass and collapsed with shock."

The older of two children, Craig lives just off the Shankill Road in the heart of Protestant Belfast.

Continued on page 2, col 5

Schools are set test by Blunkett

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

A REVAMPED inspection service will spearhead the Government's assault on low standards in schools.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, yesterday set a five-year target for improvement at every level of schooling. He promised "zero tolerance" of under-performance and told schools that if they failed to raise achievement they would face intervention by local and national authorities.

A summary of the White Paper, *Excellence in Schools*, is to be distributed in supermarkets. Schools will be given two terms' notice of an inspection, rather than the current five, and parents will meet the inspection team after, as well as before, a visit.

White Paper, page 10
Leading article, page 21

Gallery hopes to pull in the crowds with convenience art

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A LAVATORY, fully plumbed-in, is to be installed in one of Britain's leading galleries as a work of art. But guards at the Institute for Contemporary Arts in London will be on hand to tell visitors that they cannot treat it in the accustomed manner.

The latest sculpture from the British artist Sarah Lucas, 35, may look like an ordinary lavatory to the uninitiated. Indeed, it is an ordinary lavatory. But she gave it a title, *The Great Flood*, signed it, and exhibited it.

A German collector bought it for what is believed to have been £12,000 last year and has agreed to lend it to the ICA for its summer exhibition opening on Saturday. The buyer had the lavatory plumbed into his house, according to Gregor Muir, co-curator of the ICA show. He did not know where but knew it was somewhere guests would not expect to see

it. Visitors to the ICA, which the taxpayer funds through a £815,000 grant from the Arts Council, will be allowed to pull the chain, but that is all.

Mr Muir recalled that, when the work was shown in Berlin, two members of the public showed their appreciation by putting it to good use. "They weren't stopped," Mr

Muir said. "In some ways it is the ultimate involvement of the audience." The artist herself said yesterday she would not mind if anyone did put her work to functional use at the ICA.

Commenting on what Ms Lucas was saying through the title, Mr Muir said: "In some ways, it is strikingly poetic... A bold twist on words."

He places Ms Lucas on a pedestal as "one of the more interesting artists in Britain at the moment". She was highly tipped to be shortlisted for the Turner Prize. Critics have described her works as "witty, sharp and compassionate", and collectors are prepared to pay up to £16,000 to own one of them.

Commenting on the ICA exhibit, the artist said: "The toilet is everybody's great friend. The height of hygiene and getting rid of the bad stuff."



"Strikingly poetic"



"Are those pigeons doing a victory roll or is it my imagination?"

Owl found dead

Paula, the eagle owl that made its home in St Paul's Cathedral, was found dead after office workers saw it lying on a ledge. Page 3

Coe shares record

Kenya-born Wilson Kipketer, of Denmark, equalled Sebastian Coe's 16-year-old 800 metres world record of 1min 41.73sec in Stockholm.

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Hurricane Norman is forecast to go right on blowing

JOE Chamberlain put it best in a speech reported in *The Times* for March 21, 1892. "It is a very curious thing," he said, "the types of the House of Commons are constant, although the men change."

"You have the foolish man... the man with one idea... You have the independent man... you have the man who is a little cracked..."

"Then you have the weighty man. And, gentlemen, the gravity of a weighty man of the House of Commons is a thing to which there is no parallel in

the world. I have never known the House without a funny man... When he dies... there is another to take his place."

This sketch hopes to chart the emergence, from the sea of still-unknown faces in our new Parliament, of each of these types. But today let us return to that Chamberlain speech. "Then you have the House of Commons bore."

Yesterday afternoon, Mr Norman Baker (Lib Dem, Lewes) asked the Home Secretary what plans he had to

amend the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986.

Mr Baker wanted to know about "xenotransplantation" and about the exploitation of animals for commercial gain — something he considered "an abomination." He wanted less experiments and more inspectors. He wanted to know what the Government were going to do about it.

Taken in isolation, Mr Baker's question was coherent. If stated in rather dramatic language, you wander into the Chamber for the first time,

hear him speak, and suppose you had seen just another dutiful backbench MP.

But that is because you would not have been in the Chamber on the previous 48 occasions on which Mr Baker has risen to tackle ministers since the new Commons sat. In some 34 sitting days, Baker has raised a bewildering variety of issues with everybody from the Prime Minister to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. This was his first question to the Home Secretary, so he seems to have missed a trick.

He does not miss many. The average MP makes four speeches per year, and if everyone is to have a turn, not

too many must ask for more. We have yet to know what Mr Baker's tally will be, but the outlook is grim.

Last week at Transport Questions he was in favour of getting people out of cars and into trains, but against further delays to a by-pass in his constituency. This came after what was (for Mr Baker) a long period of silence: three sitting days — possibly shell-shock after 24 interventions in the Plant Varieties Bill the previous Tuesday and questions to the Prime Minister

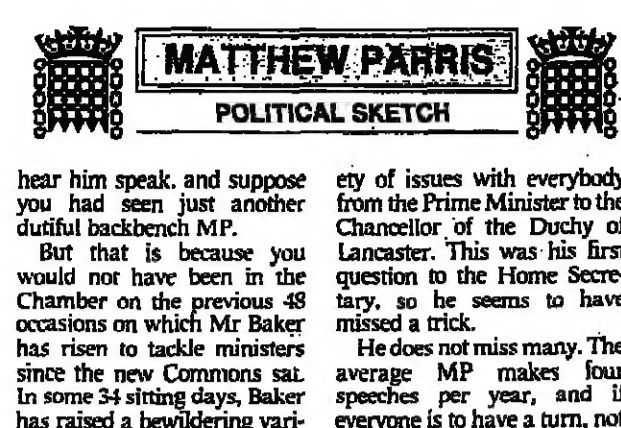
(Would he visit Lewes?) the day after. Baker expressed to Mr Blair, within the compass of a single enquiry, his views on investment in Health, Education and the Police, as well as his opinion on income tax rates. Then Hurricane Norman seemed temporarily to have blown itself out.

That Monday had heard Mr Baker's views on accessibility to the legal system, just as the previous Wednesday had listened to him on organic farming. The week before had heard Baker on the Revenue

Support Grant (Somerset), and the Business of the House. There is no space to relay to you his opinions on the Release of Documents, Aid targets, Benefits take-up, legal aid and school buildings.

None of Baker's thoughts is without merit but, assembled, they do seem unmarshalled by any sort of presiding logic. There is no theme to the pudding.

Liberal Democracy is fertile soil for this Commons type. Mr Baker should go far. A bore is born.



A new set of stamps showing the Queen's ceremonial horses, to honour the 50th anniversary of the British Horse Society, is issued today. The four stamps set, entitled *All the Queen's Horses*, was unveiled at a ceremony at

the Royal Mews, London. The four horses featured in the stamps, two carriage horses from the Royal Mews and two horses from the Household Cavalry, appeared at the ceremony accompanied by their riders. The guards, pictured alongside the horses in full ceremonial dress, have their faces concealed to conform with the Royal Mail's convention of not identifying living people, other than the Royal Family, on stamps.

Passengers grab rivals' seats to beat BA strike

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of business travellers and holidaymakers could be stranded at Heathrow and Gatwick airports from tomorrow as British Airways cabin crew begin a series of strikes over pay and conditions.

Unless there is a quick settlement further walkouts are planned, with the next three-day strike probably timed to coincide with the BA annual general meeting on July 15.

Within hours of the collapse of talks between BA and the British Airlines Stewards and Stewardesses Association every seat on rival airlines had been snapped up, leaving those passengers who had not been booked on an alternative flight with almost no chance of finding a seat on the routes affected before the strike begins at 6.00am tomorrow.

British Airways claims that more than half the 3,500 cabin crew required by law to staff their flights over the next three days have now indicated that they will turn up for work. But they still expect to have to cancel dozens of flights, especially from Heathrow, in the first serious industrial action to hit the airline since cabin crew last walked out in 1989.

The airline, which operates 1,000 flights a day around the world, plans to run all domestic

and European flights to and from Gatwick, all international flights to and from British regional airports, domestic flights other than those which operate to Heathrow and all services operated by franchise and alliance partners such as Brymon, Loganair, Maersk, GB Airways, CityFlyer Express, TAT, Deutsche BA, Qantas, and Comair.

In addition half the long haul services, a quarter of European flights from Heathrow and a third of intercontinental services from Gatwick should operate normally. Worst affected will be all short-haul and domestic flights from Heathrow.

The precise number of affected flights was changing hourly last night as BA contacted individual crew members to ensure they would be available for duty. The planned number of flights which BA now expects to be able to operate was creeping up late last night as more cabin crew pledged to work normally.

British Airways "performance managers" telephoned rostered crew at home warning them that they had "a duty to co-operate with your employer" and demanding that they contact their duty officer. As a result of the calls, which

many staff regarded as intimidating, BA was able to raise the number of European short-haul services they will be able to fly from Heathrow's terminal one from 20 per cent to 35 per cent.

Under Civil Aviation Authority regulations any flight containing more than 20 passengers must carry a minimum of one steward or stewardess per 50 passengers. A short haul jet carrying between 100 and 150 passengers would, therefore, have to have three cabin crew members.

Holidaymakers, especially those booked on long-haul flights, have largely escaped the worst effects of the strike. Kuoni, for example, has managed to rebook all 250 of its passengers due to travel over the three days of the strike on rival airlines. Air France said it had no spare capacity and would not even be able to carry BA passengers on long-haul international flights from Paris even if they got to the airport by train.

Tony Blair is refusing to become embroiled in the BA strike (Philip Webster writes). In what will be seen as an attempt to distance the Government from the strike, Downing Street yesterday said it had to be "sorted out by those involved".

NEWS IN BRIEF

Irvine lifts 'ageist' limit for new magistrates

People aged up to 65 will be able to put themselves forward to be magistrates after the removal yesterday of the current age bar which operates informally at 55. The Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, said: "The current policy is ageist."

"I believe it acts as an inhibition and does not pay sufficient regard to the contribution which older people can make to the life of their communities," Lord Irvine said that people were remaining fit into their later years and retained the ability to perform a public service. The statutory retirement age of 70 will remain.

Four suspended

Four councillors were suspended by Doncaster council's Labour group yesterday after consultation with the national party, in the wake of allegations about their conduct in handling planning applications. The council is already being investigated by the police after a critical District Auditor's report earlier this year.

Stain evidence

Bloodstains on a jumper worn by Tracie Andrews, who is accused of the roadside murder of her fiancé, were inconsistent with her account of his stabbing, Birmingham Crown Court was told yesterday. David Loxley, a forensic scientist, said the stains were probably caused as blood spurted from Lee Harvey's neck, not as she cuddled him.

Nurses' case halts

The trial in Saudi Arabia of two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague was halted in as judges debated whether to dismiss the case. A lawyer for Deborah Parry and Lucille McLaughlin said he believed discussion centred on confessions which the nurses say were made under sexual and physical duress.

Spina bifida case

A woman who says she would have had an abortion had she known she was carrying a spina bifida baby yesterday sued for damages. Margaret Wigger, 40, of Harlow, Essex, delivered Caryn in March 1992. North Essex Health Authority, which denies liability, says the action is "statute barred" because it is outside the three-year time limit.

Psychiatry plea

Majorie Wallace, chief executive of SANE, the charity founded after her articles on schizophrenia in *The Times* in 1985, called for 400 vacant psychiatry posts to be filled. She launched her campaign for more awareness of mental health needs at a ceremony conferring on her an honorary fellowship of the Royal College of Psychiatrists.

Minister criticised on £2m BP shares

By JAMES LANDALE, POLITICAL REPORTER

A SENIOR Labour minister who resigned as chairman of BP to join the Government was criticised by Tory MPs yesterday for failing to declare his £2 million shareholding in the company in the Register of Lords' Interests.

The Tories predicted a potential conflict of interest after the Government confirmed that Lord Simon of Highbury, the Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, had not sold his shares in the multinational oil company.

Lord Simon, 57, was one of the most senior businessmen that Tony Blair recruited to Labour's cause. He was ennobled in May so he could sit as a minister in the Lords. Peers do not face such strict rules as MPs over what they must declare, and Lord Simon was under no obligation to declare his shareholding.

Last night John Bercow, Tory MP for Buckingham, tabled a Commons Early Day Motion calling for Lord Simon to resign from the Government. The motion expressed regret at Lord Simon's failure to sell his shares, and his failure to declare them in the register interests.

The Government's assurances that Lord Simon was not involved in the Treasury or DTI work which posed an actual or apparent conflict of interest shareholdings were said to be "unconvincing".

John Redwood, the Shadow Trade and Industry Secretary, said: "This is such a huge shareholding. I do think it would have been safer to have registered." Under Whitehall rules, ministers must sell any shares "if it seems likely that any of them might give rise to an actual or apparent conflict of interest".

In a letter to Mr Redwood, Margaret Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, said that Lord Simon had placed some shares in a blind trust and had undertaken not to trade in BP shares until next January, when the situation would be "reviewed". She added: "He is not involved in any of the DTI business which covers BP, nor does he receive any papers which have a bearing on BP." Similar arrangements applied at the Treasury.

Straw takes on cowboy clampers

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS to tackle "cowboy" wheel-clampers who charge exorbitant fines are being drawn up by Jack Straw as part of a wider move to regulate private security services.

The Home Secretary is preparing to force all wheel-clampers to register with their local authority. He wants a maximum fine that can be levied. At present anyone is entitled to clamp a vehicle if it is parked on his or her private land and there are adequate warning signs.

But ministers have received a growing number of complaints from people who say they have been buffeted by huge cash fines on the spot or risk further costs of the vehicle being impounded. In many cases there have been no signs, or only small ones invisible in the dark, and fines have been imposed within minutes of someone leaving a car.

Government sources suggested that the new maximum fines would be £50.

Boys shot in riot

Continued from page 1

Belfast. Murals supporting loyalist paramilitaries decorate the entrance to his street and Union Flags hang from many of the windows. His aunt, who declined to be named, said his parents, Gary and Christine, did not want any retaliation.

On the other side of the Springfield Road and the so-called peace lines dividing the

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Sleepless couple win their tireless battle to silence the cock crow

Morning chorus can be too much, even in farm country, the High Court has ruled. Kathryn Knight reports

A FARMER and his wife grew increasingly tired of being woken at cock crow, the High Court heard yesterday. The trouble was that the noise came from up to 40 cockerels at a neighbouring farm. Their cries began at 2.30am, or even earlier if there was a full moon. And the exceptional chorus was also joined by ducks, geese and guinea fowl.

Instead of country sounds being one of the pleasures of rural life, the pig farmer Michael Burke and his wife found that the cacophony from a poultry farm made it impossible to get a good night's sleep.

And yesterday, they won the backing of two judges. The court rejected an appeal against a noise abatement notice issued by South Somerset District Council against John and Sandra Lowe's poultry business in Southill, near Somerton. After the hearing, Mr Lowe said the decision threatened to shatter his dream of a rural retirement idyll.

"I chose to farm the birds in a traditional way, in the fresh air and on fresh grass," he said. "Mr Burke's piggyery doesn't even need to be in the country. It's all housed inside. His pigs absolutely stink, but we have all learned to live with that."

The court was told that Mr Lowe, a retired hospital pharmacist, had moved into Windyridge, a bungalow on Windyridge lane in 1993, and started to breed hundreds of rare and old-fashioned types of fowl, while his wife bred geese and ducks.

He kept up to 40 cockerels, some of whom were kept in an enclosure at the side of his bungalow on the picturesque private country lane where the two properties are situated. Other cockerels roamed free

with geese, ducks and other poultry on three acres of grass land.

Across the road was the Burke's piggyery, Hazelhurst Farm, housing 3,500 pigs in intensive units. The only other noise disturbing the country peace were from the birds and beasts on other small farms and smallholdings scattered around the area.

The court had heard that from the early hours, the birds' chorus would drift through the Burkes' bedroom windows. After months of sleepless nights, they complained to the council.

After the complaints, health experts visited the farm and discovered the pre-dawn cacophony rose to between 46 and 48 decibels in Mr and Mrs Burke's bedroom. World Health Organisation criteria state that 36 decibels is the level above which sleeping becomes a problem.

An enforcement order was slapped on the Lowes requesting an end to the "crowing of cockerels and chorus of wild-fowl." They were asked to provide dark housing to help keep the birds quiet between 10pm and 6am, or to take other "no less effective" measures.

In May last year, the court was told, the Lowes appealed against the enforcement notice to Yeovil magistrates' court. Their appeal was dismissed after Mrs Burke told the magistrates of being woken by the cockerels as early as 2.30am - depending on the time of year - and that "the ducks and geese would join in on wet days". When there was a full moon, Mrs Burke said, the cockerels would start crowing even earlier than usual.

The Lowes told the magistrates there was little they

could do to stop their cockerels doing what came naturally. Mr Burke said he could not afford to buy poultry houses, which each cost £800, and that the noise was no more than could be expected in a country area.

Yesterday, Pushpinder Saini, for Mr Lowe, again asked for the noise enforcement order to be overturned and said it had been imprecise and misleading. However, rejecting the appeal, Lord Justice Henry, sitting with Mr Justice Gage, upheld the magistrates' decision and said that it had been made quite clear to the Lowes that their birds were a common nuisance and had to be silenced by whatever means was practical.

The Lowes were ordered to pay the action's legal costs. Mr Lowe who now faces prosecution for not having complied with the order.

Afterwards, he said that that he was brought up on a poultry farm, and that in retirement he had hoped that money from his birds would supplement his income. He added: "This is not only disappointing, but ruinous for me. I shall probably have to sell the farm to try and fund the cost of all this."

He would initially have to get rid of most of the poultry to comply with the order: "I farmed them in a traditional way. The irony is that I bought the farm in Southill because I knew people locally were tolerant about the piggyery. Neighbours are furious about what has happened. His pigs absolutely stink, but we have all learned to live with that."

A very busy road measures around 85 decibels, while noisy church bells come in at around 70. Any sustained volume of 90 decibels is dangerous for the hearing.



A French policeman checks the wreckage of the coach that crashed in the French Alps, killing two British teenagers and injuring 25 others

Parents wait to hear children's fate

Russell Jenkins at the school stricken by the crash

ANXIOUS parents rushed to St James's Church of England School in Bolton yesterday not knowing whether their children were on the lists of dead and injured.

They were taken into a small office in the low-rise 950-pupil grant-maintained high school where the head teacher, Mr David Bowes, read out the list of the uninjured boys and girls.

The fearful parents left behind were told that Nicola Moore, 16, had died when the French coach carrying the children to winter sports activities in the French Alps plunged 60 feet down a ravine. Later the news came that Robert Boardman, 14, had died in hospital from his injuries, and that his best friend, Keith Riddings, 14, was in hospital critically injured. Kim Roscoe, 38, whose daughter, Victoria, 13, was one of the uninjured, said there were about 30 parents ushered in to hear the news. "It was absolutely heartbreaking in there," she said. "Those whose children's names were not read out stayed behind, fearing the worst. They are distraught. One man just broke down."

Tearful youngsters, parents, teachers, and clergy from the Bolton diocese stood around in groups in the school corridors and playgrounds waiting with trepidation for further news.

As the day unfolded, there was comfort for parents of the other children who heard that they had escaped with cuts, bruises, and minor injuries. Mr Bowes said: "The coach was on a winding road, and went off the road on a bend,

and down a ravine. Otherwise, details are very hazy. The ravine is about 60ft deep, and youngsters were thrown from the coach. Clearly, we in the school are very anxious for more news, and we are very concerned about two of our families who are grieving at the moment. We are sharing their grief. These are their friends, and staff are anxious for news about their colleagues, two of whom were on the coach."

The day started very differently for the pupils, who were looking forward to a week of sporting activities. They had come to school wearing jeans, tracksuits, and trainers. Even Mr Bowes was dressed casually in T-shirt and tan trousers. The Reverend Lindsay Owens, a former school chaplain, made her way to the school after hearing news of the tragedy on the radio. She said: "St James's is one huge happy family, and that is the strength of the school. It's like losing a member of the family."

The French coach involved in the crash did not have to meet safety standards as rigid as those applied to British vehicles (Arthur Leathley writes). Bitter argument between European Union countries over the compulsory fitting of seatbelts on buses has forced delays in the introduction of laws that would bring member states closer into line with Britain. Coach operators on the Continent are not obliged to fit seatbelts until the end of the century.

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David Bowes head who informed parents

Masked robbers raided train

By LIN JENKINS

TWO masked robbers armed with an imitation gun and a machete made train passengers hand over cash and valuables, the Old Bailey was told yesterday. One man pointed a gun in the victims' faces, threatening to kill them as the other hit them with the broadside of the machete blade.

The two men held up the 1812 Charing Cross to Dartford service on October 15, Michael Holland, for the prosecution, said. They struck shortly after the train left London Bridge, and terrified more than 30 passengers for six minutes before fleeing at Deptford.

"They threatened to kill those who did not comply with instructions," he said. "It was the usual mix of London commuters making their way home. They were aged from late teens to pensioners. The robbers terrified them into meeting their demands."

Mr Holland said that the pair had made mistakes which led to their detection. They had drawn attention to themselves, before "looting their disbags, by searching the lavatory on the train together, and were later identified by some of the victims."

Anthony Baxter, 36, and his half-brother Aaron, 20, both of Deptford, south-east London, deny conspiracy to rob a train and possession of a handgun.

Mr Holland said that both men had made threats to kill or injure. "The gun was pointed directly at the head or face of close range. They demanded wallets and cash, bag, passengers described them as abusive and threatening," said Mr Holland.

Mr Holland told the jury that the two men had escaped with a few hundred pounds and some personal valuables. They had not worn gloves while on the train and had left their fingerprints in the carriage, he said. The trial continues.

London Zoo to examine death of cathedral owl

By JOANNA BAILE

LONDON ZOO is to conduct a post-mortem examination after an eagle owl that took refuge in St Paul's Cathedral was found dead.

The bird's body was spotted yesterday morning by office workers from a bank overlooking the south side of the cathedral. They called out Inspector Lee Hopgood, an RSPCA officer, who was watching by tourists as he walked along a 100 ft high ledge with a safety harness to reach the owl, which had been nicknamed Paula.

After descending with the corpse, he said: "It's a shame because it is such a magnificent bird. It feels slightly underweight, but I cannot say what killed it until London Zoo does the post-mortem."

Mr Hopgood said that the bird had seemed to be coping well, despite being captive-bred. "It has been around the cathedral for several weeks feeding on a plentiful supply of pigeons and squirrels. Perhaps it caught something from a diseased pigeon."

Mr Hopgood has investigated eagle owl sightings in Camden, north London, and in Regent's Park over the past 18 months and believes that it could have been Paula. Eagle owls are normally found on mainland Europe and can live for 30 years. The female bird,

which was last seen alive on Saturday, had leather anklets indicating that it was once in captivity, but no form of identification tag.

Mark Yeomans, a stonemason who is restoring the cathedral's Portland stone exterior, said: "We will miss it. It was a fierce-looking creature with lovely big eyes. We used to watch it swooping around. She must have eaten a dodgy pigeon."

David Murphy, a dealer at Dalwa Europe bank, who first saw the bird's body, said: "We went to look to see where she was and saw her lying on the ledge. We knew she was either dead or seriously ill because owls don't normally lie on their side. It's a great shame because it was nice to watch her out of the window."

With its huge talons and 5 ft wing span, the tuft-eared creature was capable of killing a dog or small deer. Residents living near the cathedral reported to the police that the bird had attacked pets and other animals.

London Fire Brigade had tried in vain to catch it after reports that it was caught in wire. London Zoo is to carry out the post-mortem examination later this week. Ian Boakes, a cathedral steward, said: "It's a sad day. Paula was a very welcome visitor."

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The deceased Paula in the arms of Mr Hopgood

Farm suffers touch of Frost

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

RAMBLERS have had a metre-wide pathway cut for them through the crops on a farm so that they can walk in the footsteps of Robert Frost, the American poet.

The farmer whose land the footpath is on faces a bill for up to £1,000 from Gloucestershire County Council for clearing the right of way, in addition to what he estimates has been the loss of wheat, barley and beans worth a similar amount.

Frost, a four-times Pulitzer Prize winner who died in 1963, lived with his family near the village of Dymock in a rented 17th century cottage. Little Iddens, in the last

summer before the First World War. He spent much of his time talking and walking through the local fields and woods with the British poets Rupert Brooke, Edward Thomas and W.H. Davis, who were also staying in the area.

Frost wrote to a friend: "We can go almost anywhere we wish on wavy footpaths through the fields. The fields are so small and the trees so numerous along the hedges that you may think from a little distance that the country was solid wood."

Linda Hart, chairman of the Friends of the Dymock Poets, said: "Everyone recog-

nises this path and cuts their land accordingly, except for this one farmer. These paths are as legal as Ledbury High Street. If you or I blocked the high street then we would be breaking the law and the law would deal with us."

Farmer Paul Bennion, whose family has farmed the land for more than 200 years, said: "Throughout the winter, autumn and spring, the crops are short and it is easy for people to cross the land. But in the summer my crops grow. I cannot tell people to keep off because it is a public right of way, but I do not see why they have to cut a path a metre wide."

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Between 9th and 12th July, we regret that British Airways flights will be disrupted due to the likelihood of industrial action. There will be no domestic services to or from London Heathrow.

We will endeavour to operate as many other services as possible, and can already confirm that the following flights will not be affected by the industrial action:

- All flights to and from regional airports - Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh & Glasgow (except those to and from London Heathrow).
- All domestic & European flights from London Gatwick.
- The following franchise & Alliance operated flights:

BA998-999	BA4600-4999	BA6800-6999	BA8200-8299	BA8300-8399
BA3000-3499	BA6200-6449	BA7600-7949	BA8300-8430	
BA4000-4199	BA6700-6749	BA8000-8199	BA8700-8839	

- The following specific flights to and from London will also operate as normal during this period:

London Heathrow Terminal 4				London Gatwick	
Miami	BA293-BA292	Bahrain & Abu Dhabi	BA125-BA124	Dallas	BA2193-BA2192
Chicago	BA297-BA296	Tokyo	BA005-BA006	Miami	BA2295-BA2294
	BA299-BA298		BA007-BA008	Houston	BA2225-BA2224
New York	BA175-BA174	Hong Kong	BA027-BA028	Pittsburgh	BA2199-BA2198
	BA179-BA176		BA029-BA030	Tampa	BA1517-BA1516
	BA001-BA004	Hong Kong & Taipei	BA025-BA026	Antigua & Grenada	BA2253-BA2252
	BA003-BA002	Hong Kong & Manila	BA031-BA032	Barbados & St. Lucia	BA2255-BA2254
Boston	BA215-BA214	Bangkok, Sydney & Melbourne	BA009-BA010	Barbados	BA2257-BA2256
Los Angeles	BA269-BA268	Bangkok, Sydney & Brisbane	BA009-BA010	Nassau & Grand Cayman	BA1505-BA1504
	BA279-BA278	Singapore & Perth	BA011-BA012	Buenos Aires	BA2267-BA2266
	BA283-BA282			Sao Paulo & Rio de Janeiro	BA2245-BA2244
Johannesburg & Durban	BA055-BA054			Nairobi & Entebbe	BA2065-BA2068
Johannesburg & Gaborone	BA055-BA054			Nairobi & Dar Es Salaam	BA2069-BA2068
Dubai & Muscat	BA123-BA122			Nairobi	BA2069-BA2068
London Heathrow Terminal 1					

Approximately a quarter of services will be operating as normal.

For further information on European services to and from London Heathrow and flights not listed above, either:

1. contact your travel agent or British Airways Travel Shop
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BRITISH AIRWAYS

The dormouse is set free in wonderland

BY MICHAEL HORNSEY
COUNTRYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

A perfect wood and ready-made homes are helping to reverse the decline of one of Britain's shyest natives

ZOO-BRED dormice were released into the countryside yesterday to help restore the fortunes of one of Britain's best known, but least seen, native creatures.

Most people are likely to have encountered a dormouse only in the pages of Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*, where it suffered the indignity of being stuffed into a teapot by the Mad Hatter and the March Hare. Once widespread in Britain, the common dormouse has become increasingly uncommon, and has gone from most northern and eastern counties.

Two dozen were set free yesterday in the perfect habitat for them: a wood of coppiced hazel. The exact location is being kept secret, except that it is in Cheshire, and there is no sign of the grinning cat. The tiny rodents

had been kept there in cages for two weeks, to allow them to acclimatise. They have been provided with wooden nesting boxes scattered among the trees, to save them the effort of finding natural equivalents in tree hollows or old birds' nests. The boxes can also be monitored easily for evidence of breeding activity.

No dormouse had been recorded in Cheshire from 1910 until last year, when an initial 29 were released in the same 25-acre wood. Wildlife scientists have been encouraged by their survival rate. The main reason for the national decline has been the loss of coppiced hazelwood, which provides the right mix of berries, nuts, flowers and insects for summer feeding.

Sue Tatman, dormouse

project officer with the Cheshire Wildlife Trust, said: "We know that at least four of the 20 females in the batch released in June last year produced young. Last autumn we were aware of 12 juveniles in the wood. At least six of these survived the winter."

Even in the best conditions, 20 per cent of adult and 40 per cent of juvenile dormice do not survive the winter. "I am hopeful that the rates we are achieving will be sufficient to create self-sustaining communities," Ms Tatman said.

The dormouse survives mainly in Kent, Sussex, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Somerset, Devon, Cornwall, Hereford and Worcester, Shropshire, Cumbria and Northamptonshire. Projects similar to the Cheshire plan

are under way in Cambridgeshire and in Nottinghamshire.

Martin Tither of English Nature, which is co-ordinating the programme, said: "We have had reasonable levels of winter survival in Cambridgeshire and evidence of two generations of breeding, which is certainly good enough to warrant continuing the experiment."

Even if they were numerous, dormice would be rarely seen. They are nocturnal and hibernate from October to May, when they are cold to the touch and unable to rouse themselves rapidly even if disturbed. Harsh winters can kill them, but too mild a winter is also dangerous as it may wake the slumbering creatures prematurely before food is available.

Roman site 'destroyed' by plough

BY TIM JONES

A LANDOWNER faces possible prosecution for ploughing up and damaging beyond repair the site of a 1,900-year-old Roman settlement.

County councillors will be told that notices put up to protect the site on Sir Rupert Mann's 7,500-acre estate near Soke, Norfolk, were disregarded. In a report to the council, Martin Shaw, director of planning, claims that, as the landowner, Sir Rupert should be prosecuted under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act.

Sir Rupert, 50, was told by English Heritage nine years ago that the field was a protected site. A letter sent to him at that time by English Heritage said he would need special consent to do any work on the field. When council officials found two months ago that it had been ploughed they established that planning permission had not been sought.

Fears rise that pollution is damaging health

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

NEARLY two-thirds of the population believe that environmental problems are damaging their health, a study released yesterday claims.

A survey by MORI has found that 60 per cent of people in Britain believe that their "own health is affected by environmental problems a great deal or a fair amount".

The level of public concern has

risen from 53 per cent in 1992. John Leaman, of the polling company, said yesterday that the British findings sent a clear message to politicians that the public wanted environmental problems tackled.

The findings have come from the International Environment Monitor Survey, a 24-nation study carried out by MORI between January and April this year. About 27,000 people were polled in several continents. MORI said that the findings demonstrated a "strong and growing concern over the environment across virtually all countries and an

increasing willingness to choose environmental protection over economic costs".

The majority of people in Britain are prepared to make economic sacrifices to see the environment cleaned up and wildlife conserved. Asked if environmental protection was more important than economic growth, 69 per cent of people questioned here said that it was — up from 56 per cent in 1992. This view is similar to that of people in the United States.

The country holding this view most strongly was Canada, where 73 per cent claimed that the environment was more important than economic growth. In Nigeria, by contrast, only 27 per cent said that environmental protection was more important than economic growth, down from 30 per cent in 1992.

The varying attitudes may reflect differing social and economic circumstances, environmental problems, and poli-

cy priorities. In India, for instance, where 94 per cent of people think their health is affected by environmental problems, the air in many cities is heavily polluted and the Bhopal chemical plant disaster, in 1984, in which 3,000 people were killed, is still fresh in people's minds. Governments in Europe are arguing that Western industrialised nations should take action to combat global warming now and that developing countries should come on board later. The United States believes that all nations should sign up to agreements to cut back pollutants that cause global warming.

The MORI survey reflects this difference in outlook. Asked who is responsible for the world's environmental problems, the majority of people in most European nations blame industrialised nations. But only 28 per cent of Americans believe that industrialised nations are to blame.



Conman said £22m rings were no good, court told

A CONMAN who posed as an immensely rich Arab prince rejected rings worth £22 million as not good enough for a woman half his age to whom he had proposed marriage, a court was told yesterday.

Rageh Daghdugh, 51, talked at length to Sammar Razaq, 25, a dentist, of his opulent lifestyle, his luxury homes, fast cars, personal jet and ocean-going yacht. He then ran up a five-figure bill for flowers for a wedding that never happened, it was said.

Michael Forward, for the prosecution, told Southwark Crown Court in London that not only was Mr Daghdugh's endless talk of matchless wealth all a sham, but he was already married: he "was not the Omar Sharif figure that Miss Razaq believed him to be, but had more in common with Reggie Perrin".

Mr Daghdugh, of Stanshaw, Portsmouth, denies obtaining a £15,000 floral display from a florist in Windsor by falsely claiming that he was Prince Azuldin Al Sanussi and had "sufficient funds" to pay.

Mr Forward said Mr Daghdugh met the woman he allegedly deceived with an empty proposal of marriage at a dinner party given by her parents at the family's London home in 1995. Mr Daghdugh, who boasted connections with the Kuwaiti royal family, told them that for "certain reasons" he was not only unable to stay more than 72 hours each time he visited Britain but, "interestingly", was only able to bring £50 with him each time, Mr Forward added.

When he took Miss Razaq to a jewellers in Bond Street, the manager closed the shop to all but Mr Daghdugh, his intended, her mother and her brother, and an array of expensive jewellery was laid out before them. "Without batting an eyelid," Mr Daghdugh said that rings worth £22 million were not good enough. Mr Forward added.

Towards the end of May last year, Miss Razaq received a telephone call from a woman telling her, as effect, to keep away from Mr Daghdugh because he was married, Mr Forward said.

The trial continues.

Fashion dances from chic to chic

After the "tough chic" style launched by Gianni Versace at the Paris fashion shows — featuring a return to severe shoulder pads in jackets and dresses — the French

designer Emanuel Ungaro presented his autumn/winter haute couture collection yesterday, featuring his oriental inspired vest worn with a black fez.

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صكزامن الاصل

Tradition offers solace amid future fears

Marchers take comfort in uncertain times from past glory

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

ORANGE Order parades, which snake through the cities and countryside of Northern Ireland during the summer marching season, may appear strangely antiquated to outside observers.

Tens of thousands of Orangemen, wearing bowler hats and white gloves, march in strict formation to celebrate the Protestant victory at the Battle of the Boyne in 1690. They address each other in archaic terms such as "District Worshipful Master" and hark back to centuries of struggle against Catholic Ireland.

Michael Ignatieff, the Canadian-born writer, summed up the thinking of most outsiders when he asked an Ulster Orangeman whether he was concerned that he looked like a museum piece. The Orangeman, deploying the customary Ulster wit, replied: "Oh, does that make me more valuable?"

Whatever the impression given to those in Britain, the Orangemen are taking part in the most important expression of Protestant culture in Northern Ireland. Protestants in Northern Ireland are frightened and uncertain about their future, which leads them to look to the comfort of past certainties and victories.

The contentious Orange Order parade at Portadown on Sunday was one of 2,404 loyalist parades that will take place this summer. David Jones, the spokesman for the Portadown District of the Orange Order, said that the parade had required little organisation because it had taken place on the Sunday before the main July 12 celebrations since 1807.

On Sunday, up to 2,000 Orangemen from the 32 lodges that make up Portadown District marched in strict order to the Anglican church at Drumcree: the parade now commemorates the Battle of the Somme in 1916. It was headed by an Orangeman carrying the district standard

flanked by two sword bearers. They were followed by the district officers, County Armagh officers, and visitors from other parts of Northern Ireland and from Scotland. They were followed by a band which, in turn, was followed by a colour party carrying the Union flag and the Orange standard. A group of ex-servicemen formed the next row before the individual lodges.

The lodges are known as LOL (Loyal Orange Lodge) — followed by a number which denotes how old the lodge is. The first Orange lodge in Ireland was founded in 1795 after the Battle of the Diamond between Catholics and Protestants in Co Armagh. LOL 9, which is the oldest lodge in Portadown, headed the lodges on Sunday.

After the parade the Orangemen lined up outside Portadown's main Orange hall. They sang the national anthem before removing their collarettes and dispersing. On Sunday they headed off home or to the pub. But after the main July 12 parades, when the Orangemen of Portadown will be marching in Armagh city, they will return to the Orange hall where lodges will have their own dinners.

The march on Sunday was the most contentious parade of this year's marching season. However, police will have to deal with more contentious parades before the end of the marching season in September, the first of which was due to take place last night in Bellaghy, Co Londonderry.

The next flashpoint will be in South Belfast on Saturday when Orangemen will attempt to march past the nationalist Lower Ormeau Road on their way to the main July 12 parades. Police may re-route the parade.

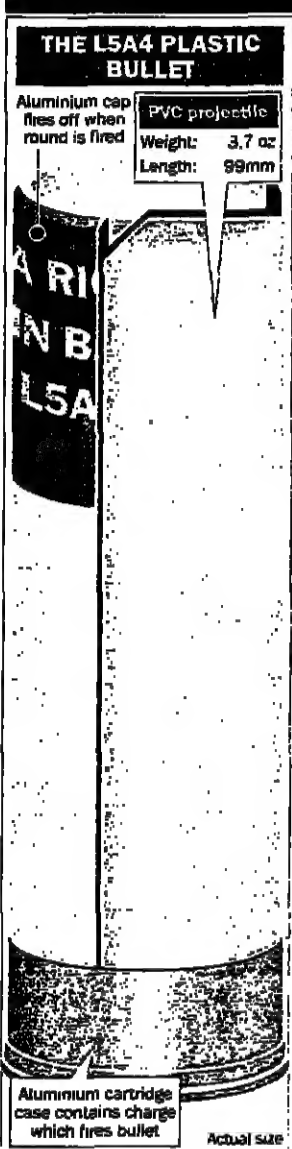
Most of the parades taking place on Saturday will pass off peacefully because they mainly take place in Protestant areas.



The design of a plastic bullet, left, and the aftermath yesterday in William Street, Londonderry, from one of the riots on Sunday night

Forces defend plastic bullets as the most effective way to control riots

Stewart Tendler on the revival of a fierce controversy



SEVERE injuries sustained by the Catholic teenager Gary Lawlor, who was struck on the head by a plastic bullet during riots in West Belfast on Sunday night, have revived an intense debate about the weapons.

Republicans said yesterday that the bullets are indiscriminate, can easily kill, and should be banned. Security sources said that they are the most effective way of controlling riots.

They were first used in Northern Ireland in the early 1970s, replacing rubber bullets which were considered too indiscriminate. Rubber bullets were pointed, measured about 5½ins long, and were difficult to aim because they bounced out of control. Plastic bullets, known techni-

cally as PBRs or plastic baton rounds, are about 4½ins long and are fired from a West German-made Heckler and Koch 69A1 grenade launcher. The lightweight single-shot guns were specially adapted for British police and soldiers.

The bullets are about the size of a large electric battery. They are made of solid PVC and weigh 3.65oz. The bullet is held in a round that includes a percussion cap, a black powder propellant and a waterproof cap. As the round is fired, the cap falls away. The bullet leaves the gun at a muzzle speed of about 56 metres per second. The marksmen should fire at a range of not less than 20

metres. They should avoid the head or face and target the lower torso, but the bullets are extremely difficult to aim accurately.

The last person to be killed by a plastic bullet was Seamus Duffy, 15, who was shot in the nationalist New Lodge area of Belfast in August 1989. The most famous victim was Sean Dwyer, 22, a Catholic who was shot dead during a nationalist march in West Belfast in 1984. An award-winning photograph showed Mr Dwyer clutching his chest at the moment of impact.

The RUC said that it regretted the deaths and injuries caused by plastic bullets, but

insisted that they were the most effective way of controlling riots. A spokesman said: "Plastic baton rounds are designed to be an intermediate response between messy hand-to-hand confrontations and firing live rounds. The rounds allow police to create a sterile area which protects forces from petrol bombs."

The spokesman said that the RUC longed for the day when it would no longer have to fire the rounds, but he added: "If people are going to attack police in this vicious way, then the police and public have to be protected."

The unmistakable thud of plastic bullets being fired echoed throughout national-

ist areas on Sunday when the security forces used 1,600 rounds to disperse rioters. Last year, the RUC and the Army fired 8,286 plastic bullets between July and September to control riots by Protestants and Catholics which erupted in the wake of the stand-off at Drumcree, Co Armagh.

The security forces will continue to rely on plastic bullets as the "least bad" option to control riots. However, republicans will continue to campaign against the weapons. They say that their campaign was boosted last month when the Ministry of Defence withdrew a batch of plastic bullets used in Northern Ireland because it was discovered that they travelled too fast.

Benefit cheats believe there is no harm in bending the rules, study finds

Confused individuals, not 'real criminals', are the worst fraudsters, Alexandra Frean reports

MOST benefit cheats believe there is nothing wrong with bending the rules or are not even aware that they are breaking the rules, according to a study published today.

Benefit fraud costs the Exchequer £4 billion a year, but few of the cheats are organised criminals or regular offenders, the Policy Studies Institute report says. Instead, it found that fraud is often committed by poor people who are confused about the rules or by those so desperate for money that they are prepared to risk occasional casual work for cash-in-hand while receiving Income Support.

Organised fraud seems to be rare and is frowned upon by even those convicted of individual offences, who regard the benefit fraud gangs as "the real criminals". Claire Whitley, one of the report's authors, said that fraud frequently arose because people were confused by the rules. Two people who were "living together" for all or some of the time might not see themselves as becoming

a couple even though the Benefits Agency's rules define them as such. "The system sends out mixed messages: one policy is to crack down on people who claim benefit while working, another encourages people to work and claim family credit and housing benefit to supplement their low wages. The system should be simplified."

Many people defrauding the benefits system said that they did so to pay essential bills. A woman benefit claimant with three young children had started a cleaning job "on the side" to raise some more money. She had been in multiple arrears and frightened by visits from debt collectors.

A man who worked for two hours a day for three months while claiming income support said he needed the money to provide for the children from

two marriages and for his social life. He felt that unless he could afford to go out once a week he would "crack up".

Ms Whitley said that many people claiming income support did not declare small earnings because the form-filling needed to adjust their benefits to the extra income would be too complicated and time consuming.

The report had a clear warning for Frank Field, the Minister of State for Welfare Reform, who is preparing plans to reduce the growing £90 billion social security budget. A main feature of the reforms is the Welfare-to-Work plan to get people off benefits and into work through a combination of incentives and penalties.

The study concluded that tackling fraud effectively will not be achieved through tougher penalties, such as increasing the number of prosecutions.

Although there had been a decline in prosecutions for benefit fraud in the 1990s, this was reversed in the 1990s. In 1993-94, the number of prosecutions reached 76,451, an increase of 30 per cent on the previous year. In 1994-95, prosecutions rose by a further 25 per cent to 95,546.

Tim Newburn, another of the report's authors, said that although prosecutions had doubled between 1990-91 and 1994-95, the threat of being taken to court seemed to be a poor deterrent because few people believed they were doing wrong or thought they would be caught. He said that imposing fines on benefit fraudsters may even encourage them to reoffend.

"Fines are likely to exacerbate the problems that led to the original fraud," he said. "A combination of clearer rules, improved detection and the use of new sanctions such as formal cautions and warnings may be a more effective way to combat fraud. Prosecution policy should target the persistent and premeditated offender."

Whitehall tightens security

By TIM JONES

SECURITY in Whitehall offices has been reviewed after a homeless man was discovered building days before Gordon Brown presented the Budget.

Mark Bickerton, 20, first lived for two days on an empty floor in the Environment Department's offices near Parliament, stealing sweets and chocolates from the canteen. He moved to the Treasury where he was discovered and freed after a police caution. He returned to the Environment Department for another night. Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, central London, was told yesterday.

Bickerton, who admitted burglary, had threatened to break into Buckingham Palace. He was given three months' conditional discharge in view of psychiatric reports.

Healthy habits to start at nurseries

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

NURSERY schools are to be given a leading role in improving the health of the nation under a strategy launched yesterday by the Government.

The aim is to teach children the skills and habits giving a long and healthy life. Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, told a London conference: "We want to attack the underlying causes of ill-health and to break the cycle of social and economic deprivation and social exclusion. This signals a major change in the nation's policy, to maximise 'good health' as well as treating sickness. You might call it being tough on the causes of ill health."

With Estelle Morris, the Under-Secretary for Schools Standards, and Michael Meacher, the Environment

Minister, beside her, she said that pre-school education was crucial in teaching the skills and self-esteem needed to break the link between deprivation in childhood and problems in adult life.

Teenage pregnancy, for instance, is all too likely to be a cause as well as a symptom of poor education, unemployment and social exclusion," she said. "If a healthy school can keep a child from following her mother by getting pregnant at 17, she has a better chance of getting qualifications, getting a job."

A Green Paper on the strategy will be published in the autumn, followed by a White Paper next summer. Meanwhile Sir Donald Acheson, the former Chief Medical Officer, will identify priorities.

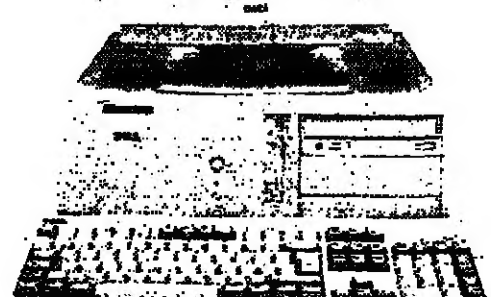
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TA officer raped woman private, tribunal is told

A TERRITORIAL Army private was raped and suffered a barrage of sexual insults and abuse during a three-year period of "institutionalised harassment", an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

The woman said that she was raped by the captain, who was second in command of her unit. The attack was just part of a three-year nightmare she endured as one of the pioneering women recruits to the TA in London, she told the tribunal in Woburn, near central London. It is the first sexual harassment claim against the part-time army reserve force.

The 35-year-old from London said she was raped, groped, punched, and suffered sexual insults during her service from 1992 to September 1995. She described how a male soldier exposed himself to her, how a photograph of her wearing a swimsuit was pinned on a noticeboard in the TA bar and how she was conditionally humiliated and bullied. The woman, whose uncle and grandfather had

Joanna Bale reports on 'three-year nightmare' of abuse and harassment

served in the regular Army, said she applied to join the Army after she left school but was refused because at 4ft 11in she was too short.

It was during a period of unemployment in 1992 that she joined the TA.

The former private said she was raped by the captain on April 23, 1994. "I was waiting for a taxi after leaving an event at the TA. He came up to me and insisted on driving me home. The captain took her to his house and insisted that she stay over."

She said: "I woke up in the night with the captain on top of me. I told him to get off and asked him what he thought he was doing. I couldn't get him off. He had intercourse with me. I was so upset and shocked I didn't know what to do... He was second in command and I was only a private." She said the tribunal she did not contact the police

or tell any senior officers within her TA unit. "I didn't think anyone would believe me. I just had to be strong and carry on. I didn't want to classify myself as a victim."

She broke down in tears while telling of the alleged rape, but regained her composure as she detailed the abuse she claimed to have endured for another 18 months before quitting the service.

Earlier in the hearing, Caroline Bates, for the former private, said: "This is a case of institutionalised harassment involving officers and privates. It's alleged that this behaviour permeated throughout the TA and was well known to officers, both junior and senior, and they failed to take any action to stop it."

The woman claims sexual discrimination by the TA. The case, which is being backed by the Equal Opportunities Commission, continues.



Jon James and Camilla Carr, who were seized by gunmen. They had been caring for Chechen children

Father pleads for captive Britons

THE father of a British aid worker kidnapped by Chechen rebels asked for official support yesterday in finding his son. Norman James, 67, said: "We just hope the Government can intervene. We are desperate for news."

Jon James, 35, and Camilla Carr, 35, were seized from their home in the capital Grozny by masked gunmen

six days ago. Nothing has been heard of them since. They had left their homes in Gloucestershire in April to join the Centre for Peacemaking and Community Development, looking after traumatised children. Norman James, who lives with his wife, Doris, 67, at Lydney, said: "My son has always been a bit of an adventurer. I think

he will cope, but that depends on who has captured him."

The missing couple's two bodyguards and the charity's deputy director have been questioned by police. Chechen authorities said yesterday that they were setting up a task force of 300 investigators, lawyers and judges to combat kidnappings.

GP who undercuts NHS may be sued

By PAUL WILKINSON

A FAMILY doctor who undercuts NHS charges with private prescriptions could face prosecution, the British Medical Association said last night. David Moor, 51, of Fenham, Tyne and Wear, says that his patients save up to £3 on the standard NHS charge of £5.65. He said: "It means remembering which drugs are cheaper under private prescriptions. If the actual cost and the chemist's charges come to about £2.65, I don't see why my patients should have to pay £5.65. I am very sure of my rights. I have patients from some of the poorest areas of Newcastle."

Peter Fellowes, of the BMA's prescriptions committee, said: "As far as the BMA is concerned, this practice is illegal. NHS patients should be treated under the auspices of the NHS and provided with NHS medicines. However, we have not had a definitive ruling on this."

A spokesman for the Department of Health said that it was a "grey area" but added: "Prescription charges are an extremely valued source of income for the NHS."

BBC chairman backs 'fat cat' pay increases

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH

THE chairman of the BBC governors, Sir Christopher Bland, yesterday strongly defended a decision to award pay rises of up to 39 per cent to senior executives.

John Birt, the Director-General, received a 20 per cent rise to £354,000 a year, according to the BBC's annual report published today. His benefits include a chauffeur-driven car, a second car and free petrol and medical benefits.

Mr Birt's rise takes his pay package to more than double what it was six years ago. He also received a further £44,000 to his pension.

Broadcast unions said that the award could threaten staff relations and make licence fee increases hard to justify. Sir Christopher said the managers were getting less than their market value and he and the remuneration committee had considered long and hard before putting their recommendations to the board of governors. He admitted that public dispute over "fat cat" public utility pay awards had been a factor in their deliberations.

Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is to feature in a two-part fly-on-the-wall documentary about his life leading up to and after Labour's election victory. A camera crew from Scotland Television travelled for six months with Mr Brown on the campaign trail and was allowed behind closed doors as he prepared to present his first Budget last week.

The highest increase went to Ronald Neil, chief executive of the new production division, who received 39.3 per cent as his total pay and pension package rose to £226,000.

Gerry Morrissey, chief negotiator for the joint unions at the BBC, said that Mr Birt's £55,000 increase would be resented by the 22,000 staff who have accepted increases averaging 2.8 per cent. "If John Birt wants to work in the private sector, he should go there, but he shouldn't expect a private sector salary in the public sector, especially if he is trying to impose public sector pay deals on his staff."

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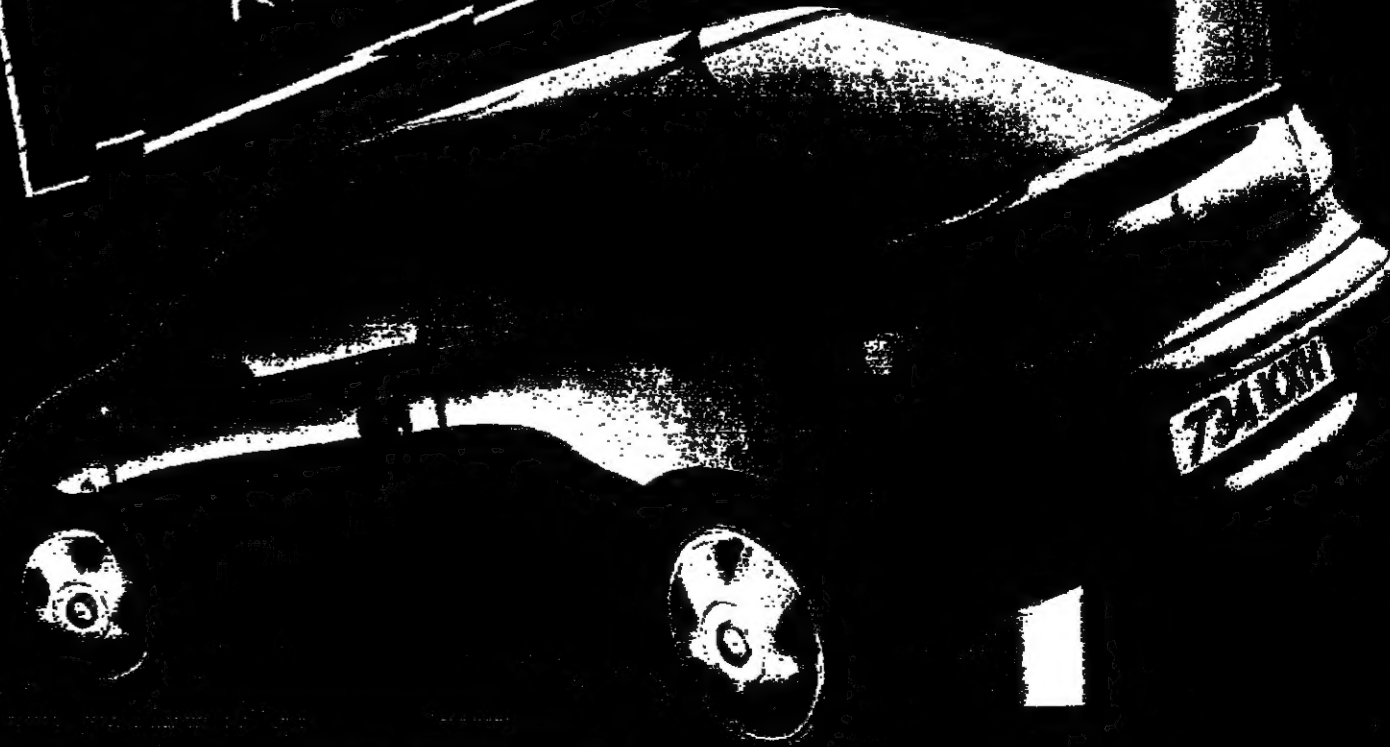
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Coal pit will undermine Byron's abbey

Engineers admit walls will crack when excavation starts at 800-year-old stately home, Daniel McGrory reports

"Ah! happy years once more who would not be a boy!"

LORD BYRON'S nostalgic assertion in *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* may be read as a tribute to his boyhood in and around Newstead Abbey, the stately home which as a ten-year-old he inherited with the title from his great-uncle. But the romantic aura surrounding the Nottinghamshire pile threatens to be undermined — literally.

A mining company plans to excavate a million tonnes of coal from underneath the site. Doug Williams, its surveying manager, said: "We expect there will be cracking in the walls of the abbey, but we are sensitive to what we are doing."

"We are doing survey work with the council and the relevant authorities to prevent any major structural damage, but there are jobs at stake." Mining engineers say that the 800-year-old Grade I listed site will drop by at least a foot when they begin work in 18 months' time.

Byron, who moved there with his mother from shabby Aberdeen lodgings, said it was one of the few places for which he had any affection. It is held in similar regard by the 35,000 visitors from around the world who arrive each



Byron returned to the abbey after Grand Tour

year to view the poet's original manuscripts and collections of his first editions.

Literary enthusiasts are appealing for the Government to prevent the mining project. Protesters include Lord Blake, a vice-president of the Byron Society, which has branches in 35 countries. He described the proposal as "tragic and outrageous", but ministers and the local authority yesterday said they were powerless to prevent the excavation.

The abbey's owner, Nottingham City Council, said it cannot block the plans for the project, which safeguards 500 jobs, because the mining company owns the coal seam and no planning permission is required for underground work. A council spokesman said: "Frankly, as long as they repair the damage, the mining company can do as it likes."

Lord Blake said: "Such an outrageous scheme should not be allowed and we are remiss as a country if Whitehall cannot stop it." Maurice

Crisp, the society's secretary, said: "This will cause international outrage and the council and the National Heritage Department should shout and demand the mining company thinks again."

The old Coal Board knew there was coal under the abbey but left it for fear of damaging this house. This company is just taking advantage of a loophole in the law to grab what cash it can. Our fear is that such damage will be done that it cannot be repaired."

Midlands Mining said that it guarantees "a substantial sum" to repair any damage caused.

The abbey was founded in 1170 by Henry II and the community of monks was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1540. The first Lord Byron bought the abbey for £810.

His poetic descendant returned to it in 1811 after his European tour and lived there for two years before selling to a friend. The abbey and grounds were handed over to the council in 1931.



Newstead Abbey, Nottinghamshire: founded by Henry II, it eventually passed to the ten-year-old Byron when he inherited the title

Leading article, page 21



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Highly irritating greenhouse effect



MEDICAL BRIEFING

THE heavy rainfall in June tempted many gardeners to shelter in their greenhouses, where they could keep dry as they nurtured their castings.

Few places would seem to provide a healthier, safer environment than a greenhouse, but a recent report in the journal *Clinical & Experimental Allergy* has shown that greenhouses are infested with hordes of microscopic mites, *Tetranychus urticae*.

Tetranychus urticae, like the ubiquitous house mite, sensitises many people who are bitten by it. Those who are sensitised and have a tendency to suffer from allergic conditions may develop attacks of asthma and hay fever, and the mite may even be a factor in precipitating eczema.

Two-thirds of the people tested in a survey reported in the journal had worked in greenhouses had a positive skin reaction when tested with the mite antigen. Half of the greenhouse workers who were exposed to the mite antigen

suffered a bronchial reaction.

The analysis suggested that sensitisation to the mite *Tetranychus urticae* could be a cause of hitherto unexplained wheezing, coughing, or running eyes and nose in nursery workers, or others who spend long hours in a conservatory or greenhouse.

Like other mites, *Tetranychus urticae* is eight-legged and has a large blood-sucking mouth and bloated limbs. It is catholic in its choice of greenhouse plants, and happily lives in most of those that have a commercial value.

Treatment with drugs for any allergic symptoms suffered by gardeners, whether the chest is involved or not, is similar to that prescribed for allergy to the house mite. Unfortunately the greenhouse mite cannot be kept at bay by minimalist — furnishing and regular dusting.

DR THOMAS STUTTFORD

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Labour embarks on classroom crusade

David Charter looks at how the Government plans to reach its ambitious objective of banishing educational failure from the school curriculum

THE Government left no room for failure by schools, local education authorities or inspectors in a White Paper yesterday that proclaims "zero tolerance of under-performance".

In a five-year crusade to raise classroom standards, every level of the education service, from teachers to groups of schools in Education Action Zones, will have to set and strive for tough improvement objectives. Local authorities will gain new powers to order improvements if they spot signs of failure in schools, but the councils will also be subject to rigorous inspection. School inspectors will also become more accountable, with a new appeals system for those unhappy with the verdict of Ofsted.

David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, launched the White Paper, *Excellence in Schools*, in the Commons yesterday, saying: "Our children are our future. We owe it to them to give them the best possible start in life."

The following is a summary of the White Paper.

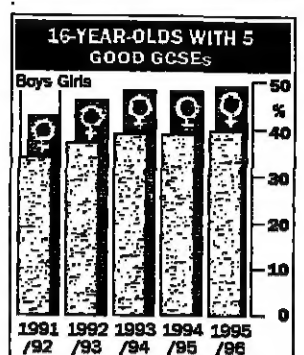
□ **The early years:** "All children should have a firm foundation for their education."

The new standards regime will begin in the nursery, with the Government adopting the "desirable learning outcomes" piloted by the Tories. From this September, children will be assessed in their first term at school and the results used to measure progress. Class

sizes will be kept to 30 or below for all children aged five, six and seven by 2002.

An Early Years Forum in each area will draw up plans to provide pre-school places for all four-year-olds, extending the initiative to three-year-olds later. The aim is to integrate nursery provision and childcare. Once in school, literacy and numeracy will be given priority.

□ **Standards:** "Standards



rise fastest when schools take responsibility for their own improvement."

Tough targets for improvement will challenge the low expectations which ministers see at the root of previous underperformance in schools. Each local authority will have a development plan, showing how all schools will improve, and every school will have to draw up targets in three-year plans, reviewed annually.

Fresh Starts will be ordered for failing schools which do

not improve. They could be closed and re-launched under new senior teachers.

Ofsted will inspect all education authorities and the worst will be taken over. Schools will be inspected at least once every six years.

□ **Modernising schools:** "We must modernise comprehensive secondary education and open up access to new technologies for all."

The principle of "diversity within one campus" means children should be put in sets by ability in all schools, particularly for science, mathematics and languages. "Fast-track" pupils should take qualifications early.

Schools will be reorganised into foundation, community and aided. Parents will be balloted where governors do not want to become the new type of school closest to its present status. For example, county schools will become community schools, with the local authority employing staff. Grant-maintained schools will become foundation schools, employing their own staff and with no more than two local authority governors. There will be more parent governors.

The first 25 Education Action Zones will be set up in disadvantaged areas, with parents and businesspeople helping draw up targets to improve school performance.

Specialist schools in technology, languages, sports and arts will have to share facilities with neighbouring schools

and give master classes for gifted pupils.

□ **Teaching standards:** "Teachers hold the key to their pupils' success."

Aspiring head teachers will have to pass a new qualification and the school leaders of the future will be identified by a fast-track route to headship early in their careers.

An induction year will be brought back for new teachers, who will be allowed to enter the classroom only after meeting standards set out last month by the Teacher Training Agency. To retain the best teachers in the classroom, the new grade of Advanced Skills Teacher will bring more pay and responsibility.

Appraisal of teachers is to be reviewed and the Government is consulting on fast-track dismissal of poor teachers. Heads may have to report to governors every year on any teacher performing badly.

□ **Raising achievement:** "Pupils need support from parents, local authority services, business and the community, as well as schools, to ensure they reach their full potential."

Every primary school should involve parents in their child's reading and Age Concern will help find "foster" grandparents to act as mentors for children.

Home-school contracts will cover discipline, homework and attendance. An "assertive discipline" policy should show sanctions and rewards, with



Girls at Selly Park Technology College, Birmingham, where streaming is credited with improving GCSE results

regular praise for pupils who keep the rules.

The Government wants fewer pupils expelled and will consult on new guidance. It will also make all pupils finish the summer term when they turn 16.

Homework guidelines will spell out how much children should do and there will be homework clubs at half of all secondary and a quarter of primary schools by 2001.

Leading article, page 21

How struggling school set course for success

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

TARGETS for all pupils and a rejection of mixed-ability teaching has transformed a comprehensive school which was "the pits", its head teacher said yesterday.

Wendy Davies, head at the girls-only Selly Park Technology College in Birmingham, introduced ability sets for all subjects to send the GCSE pass rate soaring. Only 2 per cent of girls achieved five O-level passes ten years ago. Last summer, 43 per cent of pupils gained five or more good GCSEs.

The Government's call to modernise the comprehensive principle has been pioneered by schools in Birmingham under the guidance of its chief education officer, Professor Tim Brighouse, recently appointed to the Standards Task Force.

"The first school target was to increase GCSE results by 1 per cent," Mrs Davies said. "We went for something achievable in the first instance because I didn't want to depress the staff. The pupils were easier to get higher expectations from than the staff. Now we are going for much higher targets."

Children are split into streamed classes as soon as they arrive, with the top class aiming for eight or nine good

GCSEs, the next two groups at least five, and the lowest class up to five. These groups divide into sets based on ability for mathematics, English and science, reflecting pupils' aptitude in different subjects.

"We believe that if pupils are bright enough, we push them on. Let's have them getting their GCSEs early," Mrs Davies said. "In maths you cannot do anything else but set. In this school we have also seen the benefit of putting them in broad bands for all subjects. You can have brilliant teaching on mixed ability and it works but it does not always work with your average teacher."

Tony Blair, writing in *The Times* yesterday, said: "We favour setting, rather than mixed-ability teaching, in comprehensive schools." This was the way to help children stretch "as far and as fast as they can".

But the mixed-ability principle, so closely identified with the traditional ethos of comprehensive schools, still has strong support. All children spend their first year in mixed-ability classes at Campion School in Bugbrooke, Northamptonshire, which serves a dozen villages and the edge of Northampton.

Tony Downing, the deputy head, said that ability sets were introduced in the following year in mathematics and later on in science.

"This is a comprehensive school and so it does uphold comprehensive ideals," Mr Downing said. "The overriding principle is that students learn in a situation that is best for them and that is usually a mixed ability situation, certainly in the lower years. Most comprehensive schools, like us, have introduced a measure of setting where it is in students' interests higher up the school."

The benefit of mixed-ability learning was that all pupils felt that they were treated "with the same esteem". Creating a bottom set could lead to an unmotivated and undervalued group of students, he said. The school would change its system if it did not work for its pupils. 46 per cent of whom gained five or more good GCSE grades last summer. Targets were being set for each department.

"Schools need to respond to their local situation. We have a less wide ability range than would be the case in some inner-city schools and we take the decision how to teach, not according to dogma, but according to best outcomes."



Campion School, Bugbrooke, where mixed-ability teaching is a "comprehensive ideal"

Soothing parents with promise of continuity

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

COMMENTARY

PARENTS will see little immediate change in most state schools as a result of yesterday's White Paper. Improvement is a long haul, and ministers have recognised as much in their agenda for raising standards.

Even 2002, the date by which most of the Government's proposals are to be judged, is just around the corner in educational terms. By then, there should have been a 40 per cent improvement in primary school test results, a settled framework for secondary schools with pupils grouped by ability, more specialisation and less truancy.

The 84 pages of *Excellence in Schools* contain plenty of ideas for achieving these ambitious goals, but the route to improvement remains largely for schools themselves to decide. Well-flagged requirements for schools to set and achieve

targets will be enshrined in legislation, but other initiatives such as the assault on mixed-ability teaching and the introduction of homework guidelines are pure exhortation.

The difference will be that schools will have to answer to local authorities and Ofsted inspectors if they ignore the Government's advice and their results do not improve. The line of least resistance will be to do ministers' bidding.

In reality, most secondary schools already group pupils by ability in the core subjects and the larger primary schools are beginning to follow suit. But other developments, such as the use of phonics in a primary school literacy hour, will mean a change of culture in the teaching profession.

The Government's oft-repeated recipe for school improvement involves a combination of pressure and

support. Last week, the Budget provided the support with £2.3 billion extra funding. Yesterday's White Paper was all about pressure.

Bemused shoppers picking up their copies at Tesco or Sainsbury's will find the same uncompromising tone that has characterised ministerial statements on schools. The document promises "zero tolerance" of under-performance, let alone failure. Most parents are likely to be reassured by the strong line and the retention of promising Tory initiatives. Incursions such as the scrapping of partial selection are few and far between.

The exception to the rule of the satisfied customer may be those whose children are in grant-maintained schools and/or grammar schools, where crucial questions remain to be answered. There may yet be a sting in the tail of promised consultation papers, but the glossy pages of *Excellence in Schools* contain nothing but soothing assurances of continuity.



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Children abused by foster boy sue council

Alexandra Frean reports on a ruling that leaves social workers and local authorities open to negligence claims

FOUR brothers and sisters who were sexually abused by a teenager fostered by their parents won their High Court action yesterday to seek compensation for "assault" and psychological trauma.

Mr Justice Hooper ruled that the four, who were aged seven to 12 at the time they were abused, could seek damages for negligence from Essex County Council and Anthony Golden, a social worker. The ruling sets a precedent that could result in many similar actions.

However, the judge struck out a claim by the children's parents, who were also seeking redress for post-traumatic shock after discovering what had happened to their children.

The question of whether the council had been negligent in this respect will be settled at the compensation case to be

brought by the children. Their father, known only as Mr W, said: "I am really pleased that the kids' claims can go ahead. Then maybe this might stop this kind of thing happening to other children. Obviously I'm disappointed that our claims haven't got the go-ahead, but we don't know what the future holds and this may get overturned at the Court of Appeal."

Mr W said that his children still had nightmares four years after the incidents. "They still have moments where they are very depressed and very quiet and they still see a counsellor," he said.

Essex County Council, which had offered the family an out-of-court settlement, said that it deeply regretted the trauma undergone by the family. It said: "Notwithstanding the council's great sympathy for the parents, and the family as a whole, there is a duty owed by the council to council tax payers not to pay compensation unless they are required by law to do so."

The council is consulting its insurers to decide whether to appeal against the decision to allow the children's case to go ahead. In court, Edward Faulks, QC, for the council, said that previous rulings giving social workers immunity from negligence actions meant that the council could not be held liable for the actions of social workers in the course of their duties.

Allan Levy, QC, for the parents, contended that the case was different from previous actions over social workers' negligence, which have been struck out on public policy grounds.

The mother and father have separated as a result of the affair and the children have had extensive psychiatric treatment. The foster child, known as G, admitted in juvenile court in June 1993 indecent assault against the two younger girls and received a two-year supervision order at a young offenders' centre.

The abuse occurred in April and May 1993. Mr and Mrs W noticed that their children had become fearful and with-

drawn in G's presence. Only after they had asked for G to be removed from their home did they discover from their children that the youth had abused them.

The parents had considerable experience with children in need of care, and were on a register of people prepared to look after difficult teenagers. They said they were told that they would never have to care for anyone who might be a danger to their family.

They said that had they known the teenager had been put in care in the first place because he had sexually assaulted a seven-year-old girl, they would not have let him into their home.

In allowing the children to pursue their legal action, the judge ruled that social workers placing a child with foster parents have "a duty of care to provide to the foster parents such information as a reasonable social worker would provide" and "the local authority was vicariously liable for the conduct of its social worker in this respect".



The Speaker with Emma Preece, who "fitted more into her life than some adults"

Political interviewer, 14, dies

A GIRL who interviewed top politicians for children's television has died suddenly in her mother's arms (Tim Jones writes). Emma Preece, 14, who was described as a "shining star" by her head teacher, suffered a brain haemorrhage.

Her mother Anne Preece, of Romsey, Hampshire, said: "She said that she had a terrible pain in her head. I lay with her on the bed, put my arms around her and held her as she went to sleep. I feel lucky that I was with her when she died."

Miss Preece interviewed Tony Blair, John Major and the Speaker of the Commons, Betty Boothroyd, this year for the BBC's *Newswatch*, after taking part in a competition. Lesley Morfrew, her head teacher at Mountbatten School, said: "She fitted more into her life than some adults do in their whole lives."

Suicide bill lawyers investigated

Firm that charged grieving mother is closed, reports Frances Gibb

A LAW firm that sent a bill for £12,000 to the grieving mother of one of its solicitors after he committed suicide has been closed while being investigated by the Law Society.

James Beauchamp Solicitors claimed it spent nine hours, at £150 an hour, investigating matters at the home of Christopher Bryant, 54. An inquest was told that he had hanged himself because of pressure of work.

The firm, based at Edgbaston, West Midlands, charged his mother, Irene Brierley, an 80-year-old widow, £150 for telling her that her son was dead. The total bill, sent to Mrs Bryant in November, was for £12,278. The firm later withdrew the bill.

Yesterday the Office for the Supervi-

sion of Solicitors confirmed that it has temporarily closed the practice. A spokeswoman said that the action had resulted from an investigation arising from a complaint by a member of the Bryant family.

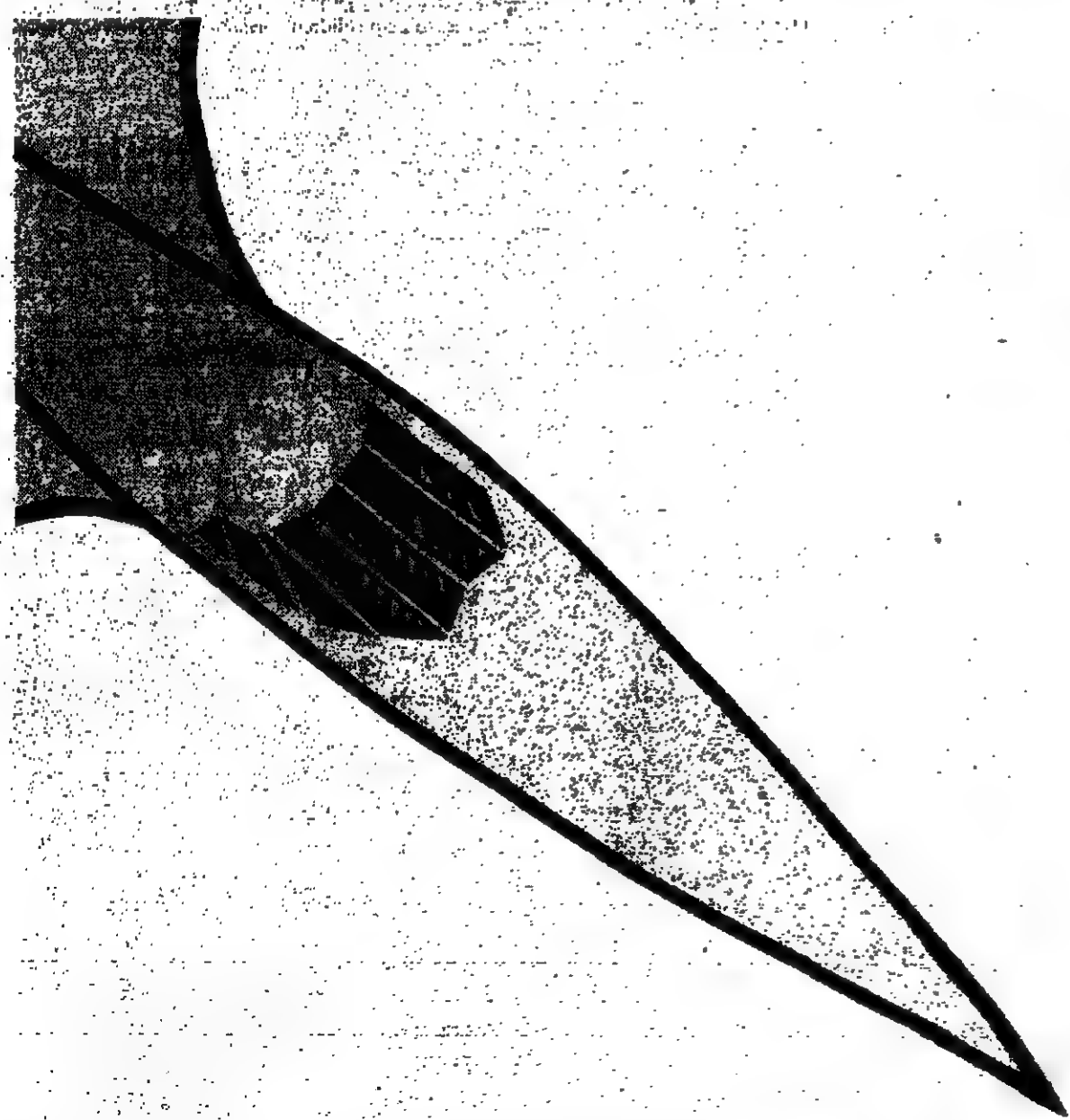
A spokeswoman for the supervision office said: "We looked at the conduct issues and standard of service arising in this case, including the question of gross overcharging, and that led to our investigation." She said that the office carried out an investigation into James Beauchamp dating back to March of this year after a complaint about the bill to Mr Bryant's mother. The firm was closed on June 27 and will stay shut until the Law Society has completed its investigation of the company's activities. The

client list has been taken over by another firm in the area.

James Beauchamp's two partners, Andrew Westall and David Waterhouse, have had their practising certificates temporarily suspended and the six other employees are likely to lose their jobs.

The spokeswoman said the partners could apply for the suspension to be lifted. "But that would require our approval and they would have to meet certain conditions. The partners will face proceedings in front of a solicitors' disciplinary tribunal, where they could be fined, suspended or they could be struck off. At the moment the suspension is temporary."

Law, pages 33, 35



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Windsor love treasures up for sale



Bertram Park's portrait of Wallis Simpson for her presentation at court in 1931 and, right, the Windsors' Paris drawing room

THE Duke and Duchess of Windsor's personal possessions, including love letters, hairbrushes and an array of china pug dogs, will be sold separately at auction in New York in September.

The Windsors' collection in their Paris mansion was bought by the Egyptian-born financier Mohamed Al Fayed after the death of the Duchess in 1986, but now he has decided to clear the house, set in its own grounds in the Bois de Boulogne, and make it into a family home.

The week-long sale, announced yesterday in New York, will start on September 11 and is expected to raise about £40 million.

The proceeds will go to charity, but the decision to sell, coming soon after Mr Al Fayed, chairman of Harrods, announced that the mansion would become a private museum, has angered some historians who say it will disperse an extraordinary historical testament and a shrine to the Windsors' love affair.

The collection, to be sold in 40,000 lots and billed as the biggest sale of royal memorabilia, includes furniture, paintings, books, clothes and thousands of household and personal items, providing a catalogue of the Windsors' life in exile after the heir to the Throne married Wallis Simpson, an American divorcee.

Some of the items are of historical significance, such as the table on which Edward VIII signed his abdication in

Ben Macintyre in Paris and John Shaw report how historians are disappointed at the decision of owner Mohamed Al Fayed to auction off the estimated £40 million of former royal possessions that chronicle an affair, an abdication and exile

1936 at Fort Belvedere in Sunningdale. Others, such as the tiny satin box containing a morsel of the couple's wedding cake, are poignant mementoes. The couple moved into the house in 1952 and in her will the Duchess left its contents to the Pasteur Institute, from which they were bought by Mr Al Fayed.

The house had fallen into some disrepair during the Duchess's long final illness and Mr Al Fayed was widely praised for his much publicised decision to restore the building and maintain the collection. The cost of the restoration has been estimated at £30 million.

"By preserving with such delicacy the splendours of the collection and this set of objects with incalculable sentimental value, Mr Al Fayed has allowed us to understand better the two heroes of a great love story," Joseph Friedman wrote in an introduction to Hugo Vickers's book, *The Private World of the Duke and Duchess of Windsor*.

Mr Vickers said he was disappointed that Mr Al Fayed had now chosen to sell. The financier, his wife and

four children lived in the mansion's top-floor flat, but Mr Al Fayed now wants his growing family to have the run of the whole property. "So much effort was put into restoring the house, and now it will all be disbanded," Mr Vickers told the *International Herald Tribune*.

The sale will provide a bonanza for collectors of royal souvenirs while offering another glimpse into the glamorous but strangely obsessive world of the Windsors. The Duke, for example, seldom threw away a piece of clothing and the contents of his wardrobes are a sartorial archive dating back to his childhood.

The Duchess's love of pug dogs (the couple had nine in total) is reflected in china models, portraits, photographs and a set of handmade pug cushions. Among the most valuable items are their porcelain collection, the Chippendale table with leather plaque at which Edward renounced the Crown, and a set of engraved 1946 Lalique wine glasses.

The Windsors were avid hoarders: the villa's library contains many first editions,

including works signed by Queen Victoria, as well as souvenirs such as a box of matches owned by Edward VII, a silver basket presented as a wedding gift by Winston Churchill and the sword worn by Edward at his father's coronation.

Until his death the Duke kept at his bedside as a good-luck charm a childhood doll from his mother, Queen Mary. The Windsors never allowed themselves to forget the rank that had been forfeited and one of the odder keepsakes is a triangular cut-glass decanter, commemorating in turn George V's jubilee, Edward's abdication and the coronation of George VI.

The couple's monograms appear everywhere, from her silk lingerie to his shaving brushes, either separately or together to form "WE", for Wallis and Edward. But it is the items most redolent of their love affair that will be the most sought after: a handful of love letters dating from the start of their relationship, a copy of the Duchess's autobiography, *The Heart has its Reasons*, with a handwritten dedication to her husband and the framed photographs of the Duchess with which the Duke surrounded his bed.

Perhaps the most moving item is a menu from Buckingham Palace on which, in her own hand, Queen Mary had written the names of Edward's comrades in the Grenadier Guards who were killed on the Western Front.



Golf clubs and a Christian Dior gown are among the lots

WORLD SUMMARY

Forest fire threat to Salonika

Athens: Forest fires, probably started by people illegally clearing woodland for future luxury homes, threatened the northern suburbs of Salonika in northern Greece yesterday (John Carr writes).

Residents and soldiers joined the battle against the blaze, which initially raged on nine fronts, driven by high winds after a spell of extraordinarily hot weather. No casualties were reported, but four houses in the town of Retziki, northwest of Salonika, were burnt down on Sunday.

Swiss payout

Zurich: Switzerland's Holocaust memorial fund will make a first payment of SwF17 million (£7 million) to Jewish Holocaust survivors, primarily in Eastern Europe. Panel members cited the special plight of Holocaust survivors in Eastern Europe, known as "double victims" for their inability to get compensation during the Cold War. (Reuters)

Cosby court role

New York: Bill Cosby, the American comic actor, is preparing for an extortion trial of a woman who claims to be his illegitimate daughter (James Bone writes). Autumn Jackson, 22, went on trial for threatening to sell her story to a tabloid if the billionaire comedian did not hand over \$40 million (£23 million).

Algerian trial

Paris: Abdelkader Hachani, the Islamic leader, went on trial in Algiers on charges of trying to undermine state security, after more than five years in detention. Mr Hachani, who led the Islamic Salvation Front before it was outlawed, faces up to ten years in jail. (Reuters)

Party hand-out

Toronto: An Italian Radical Party politician gave away banknotes in protest at the use of taxpayers' money to fund political parties. Marco Pannella, in a lorry carrying 2.7 billion lire (£900,000), handed out about two thousand 50,000 lire notes. (Reuters)

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Clinton in danger of splitting allies with plan to snatch Karadzic

FROM MICHAEL EVANS
AND MICHAEL BRYON
IN MADRID



A REVISED American plan to snatch Radovan Karadzic, the indicted war criminal and former Bosnian Serb president, is expected to be part of a new effort by President Clinton to complete all the elements of the Dayton peace accord, before American troops are pulled out next summer.

The war criminals issue will

be raised at the Nato summit which opens today and threatens to provoke divisions between those alliance members who feel it is time to take decisive action and others who doubt the wisdom of sending

in snatch squads. Britain has always taken a cautious approach, preferring to stick to the wording of the Dayton accord, which places the responsibility of handing over indicted war criminals to the local communities.

However, a senior Nato source said yesterday there was growing frustration over the failure of the community leaders in Bosnia to comply with this part of the Dayton accord.

He said Nato leaders would

focus on Bosnia-Herzegovina over lunch today. Although the idea of sending in snatch squads has been discussed before, and rejected, there are reports of renewed interest in the United States. American unmanned predator spyplanes have been monitoring Dr Karadzic at his base at Pale for some time.

All the Nato leaders are agreed that the failure to deal with the indicted war criminals and the deteriorating political and security situation

in Bosnia are seriously undermining the Dayton accord and putting at risk the plan to withdraw the alliance-led Stabilisation Force (Sf) in a year's time. Mr Clinton remains adamant that the 20,000 American troops will leave next summer.

However, if Dr Karadzic remains at large and continues to flout the Dayton accord by wielding political influence in Republika Srpska, it would be difficult for Mr Clinton to withdraw troops and claim

the job of peacekeeping had been completed. Britain, which has 5,000 troops in Bosnia, is also committed to leaving if the United States pulls out.

However, the Government has been trying to persuade the Americans to consider taking part in a smaller peacekeeping force after Sf has been disbanded because of the risk of peace breaking down once the US personnel have gone.

Tony Blair is expected to

raise this issue with President Clinton during the summit. One Nato official said it was vital that the next 12 months were not "squandered", so that when the Sf troops withdrew they would leave "not a perfect peace" but at least a "sustainable peace."

Yesterday, as Mr Clinton, Mr Blair and other Nato leaders met over dinner on the eve of the summit, feverish negotiations continued to make sure that the main item on the agenda — enlarging the

alliance — could be formally dealt with today with invitations to Poland, the Czech Republic and Hungary to join the organisation.

Nato sources said last night that whether Romania and Slovenia should also be invited was still being debated. All one official would say was: "It will not be less than three and it will be no more than five, but I guarantee there will be a decision."

Michael Portillo, page 20

Tehran ordered Lockerbie blast, says ex-Iran spy

By Shirley English and Roger Boyes

NEW evidence which alleges Iran and not Libya was responsible for the 1988 bombing of the PanAm jumbo jet above Lockerbie in Scotland is to be investigated by the Crown Office in Edinburgh.

Andrew Hardie, the Lord Advocate, is to look into the latest allegations, made in the German magazine, *Der Spiegel*, by a former Iranian spy, that the bombing was ordered by the late Ayatollah Khomeini as revenge for the shooting down of an Iranian Airbus by an American warship in July 1988.

That December a bomb exploded in the hold of PanAm Flight 103 above Lockerbie, killing all 259 passengers on board and 11 people on the ground.

Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for Linlithgow, will raise the matter at the Scottish Grand Committee meeting in Westminster today by calling on the Government to order an independent review of the evidence. He has also tabled a parliamentary question to Tony Blair, due to be heard next Wednesday.

Dr Jim Swire, of the pressure group UK Families Flight 103, whose daughter Flora

was killed in the disaster, has written to Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, insisting that he seek assurances from Germany that British criminal investigators will be allowed to interview the former Iranian spy, Abolghasem Mesbahi. According to *Der Spiegel*, Mr Mesbahi, a co-founder of the Iranian intelligence service, told German police investigators that Khomeini ordered the attack in retaliation for the deaths of 290 Iranian passengers accidentally shot down over the Strait of Hormuz by an American warship, the USS Vincennes.

Suspicions about Iranian involvement have been circulating for years. In 1995 a leaked US Air Force intelligence report pointed the finger at Iranian agents and claimed that Tehran offered \$10 million (£6 million) to blow up the jumbo.

The difference this time is that Mr Mesbahi was indisputably a senior figure in the Vevak secret police and is regarded by the Germans as a credible witness. Identified only as Source C, he testified in the Berlin trial this year of a group of Iranian hitmen ac-

cused, and sentenced, for the murder of Kurdish dissidents.

Mr Mesbahi's inside knowledge allowed the German judges to declare that the higher echelons of the Iranian leadership knew about the plot to kill the Kurds in a Berlin restaurant. That triggered a crisis between Iran and the European Union which is still simmering.

Mr Mesbahi has been giving fresh details about the Lockerbie attack in his debriefing with the Frankfurt prosecutor, Volker Rath, as well as with detectives and German intelligence.

According to the Iranian, the bomb was loaded in separate parts onto a plane in Frankfurt airport with the help of the then representative of Iran Air, who doubled as a secret agent. The bomb was assembled in Heathrow and placed in the PanAm jumbo.

After Khomeini had ordered revenge, Ali Akbar Velayati, the Foreign Minister, started to plan the operation with the Libyans and with members of the Abu Nidal terrorist group. The Iranians masterminded the whole operation, Mr Mesbahi has reportedly told investigators.

Albanian Socialists poised to oust Berisha

FROM TOM WALKER
IN TIRANA

UNOFFICIAL results from the second round of voting in Albania's general election suggest yet more gains for the former communist Socialist Party, which looks to be heading for the two-thirds parliamentary majority it needs to oust President Berisha. Another crushing blow for Mr Berisha's Democrats came yesterday, when Tritan Shehu, the party chairman, resigned after losing his seat in the second round. This could pave the way for Mr Berisha to lead the party in opposition.

Fatos Nano, chairman of the Socialist Party, who under the late dictator Enver Hoxha worked in Albania's Institute of Marxist-Leninist Studies, is a reformed communist who aspires to the new Labour politics of Tony Blair. His close links with the dark days of Hoxha, however, make him a hated figure in much of northern Albania and his popularity in the south rests largely on supposed promises he made to repay investors who suffered in the collapse of pyramid schemes.

"The coalition government has got two-thirds, there is no doubt about this," said Mr Nano, whose Socialists have allied themselves with a broad spectrum of smaller centre-left parties. Signalling a sea change in the way Albania is run, Mr Nano has said he would like the Prime Minister's job, a sure sign that the Socialists will try to downgrade the presidency to a symbolic role.

Mr Berisha has stayed out of the debate in recent days, merely taking every opportunity to remind Albanians of Mr Nano's alleged pyramid



Two participants keep a wary eye on the bulls in the opening Pamplona run yesterday

Briton hurt in Pamplona bull run

PAUL FLEMING, 25, of London, was one of two people injured yesterday on the first day of the annual running of the bulls in the Spanish town of Pamplona. He was treated for a neck injury after tumbling and being trampled in the mêlée as hundreds of people sprinted down the streets alongside the customary six bulls, but was later released.

Juan Jesús Larraya Cami-

no, 31, a Spaniard, was not as lucky. He was gored and admitted to hospital with a 10in gash in his right leg.

The nine-day San Fermín festival has an encierro (run) each morning. A pack of primarily young men test their machismo in the annual rite of summer by racing 900 yards down a narrow cobblestone street with the bulls, which are on their way from their corral to the bullring. At least 13

people have been killed in the runs, the last in 1995 when a 22-year-old American, the only foreigner ever to die, was fatally gored. Before 1924, no records were kept of those killed in the ritual, which dates back to 1591.

Nine people were injured on opening day last year, but only one was gored. Officials say they are surprised that more people are not injured, particularly unschooled foreigners.

Bonn approves Eurofighter

FROM ROGER BOYES
IN BONN

GERMANY is to press ahead with the four-nation Eurofighter project, ending months of uncertainty and fierce sparring between the Finance and Defence Ministries.

The decision, leaked by defence sources yesterday, will come as a relief to Britain, which has been lobbying the

Germans hard to come up with the necessary investment for the pre-production stage. Tony Blair and George Robertson, the Defence Secretary, threw their weight behind the combat jet. In Bonn talks to save what is regarded as a key project for the European aerospace industry and an important creator of jobs in Britain and Germany.

Theo Waigel, the German

Finance Minister, has been saying repeatedly over the past 14 days that he wants the fighter to fly, not least because of the 18,000 manufacturing jobs involved in his native Bavaria, although Volker Rühe, the Defence Minister, has said that the Eurofighter could be produced only if enough funds were made available and guaranteed over time.

Arrival of toothbrush brings hope for fresh start on Mir

FROM RICHARD BEBSTON IN MOSCOW

A CARGO spaceship carrying tons of vital supplies docked with Russia's accident-prone Mir space station yesterday.

Applause broke out at mission control outside Moscow as the Progress supply ship made a faultless docking. The ship, which will not be opened until today, is carrying two and a half tons of food, fuel, oxygen and vital equipment needed to repair the Spektr module which was damaged last month in a collision.

In the accident on June 25, Michael Foale, the British-born US astronaut, was forced to evacuate the module, which was punctured and began to lose air and decompress. Today he will receive 154lb of personal belongings,

ranging from a toothbrush and a razor to a new computer — all lost when he abandoned his living quarters.

The arrival of the supplies means the Russians now have a chance of salvaging their 11-year-old space station, which has been running on reduced power since the accident. The repair operation, described as the most dangerous attempted in space, will involve the two Russian cosmonauts, Vasili Tsibilyev and Aleksandr Lazutkin, trying to reconnect power cables to solar batteries on Spektr. The operation is expected to take several hours, and involves the men working inside the small, dark module with the threat that their spacesuits

could be ripped or damaged. Mr Foale, 40, will be on standby in an emergency escape ship ready to return to Earth with the two Russians if the operation goes wrong.

Experts described the puncturing of the Spektr module as one of the worst accidents in space, though Mr Foale played it down as a "rather exciting moment which certainly got my attention". Since then, he has described himself as like a "dog that lives on the street", forced to borrow clothes and even a toothbrush from his colleagues.

Vasili Tsibilyev, the Mir commander, said of Mr Foale: "He helped us a lot ... he did more than many other American astronauts."

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Seven die as police smash Kenyan protests



Sam Kiley in Nairobi sees the brutality of President Moi's regime in suppressing the growing clamour for reform

KENYAN police yesterday teargassed worshippers and thrashed MPs with pickaxe handles in Nairobi's All Saints Anglican Cathedral to break up demonstrations calling for political reforms. Two elderly men were beaten close to death as they knelt with heads bowed near the altar. Two people were killed in central Nairobi and a teenager was killed in Thika, on the outskirts of the capital, police said. Four people died in Nyaruhuru town, 60 miles to the west, including two men who were crushed when a crowd stampeded as police moved in. In the Nairobi

clashes, the security services ignored attempts by opposition group members to surrender and bludgeoned civilians grabbed at random from the streets in view of tourists in five-star hotels.

One of the most prominent of the victims was the Rev Timothy Njoya, the veteran democracy campaigner and Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa. He walked with his arms raised in surrender towards a dozen policemen beating their riot shields after firing teargas into the cathedral grounds. One kicked his legs from under Mr Njoya, and as he went down



The Rev Timothy Njoya, a Kenyan democracy activist, is helped to a car to go to hospital in Nairobi yesterday after he and an assistant were beaten by police

police swung wooden clubs against his skull. Dozens of blows landed on the churchman, one of the leaders of the nationwide demonstrations aimed at curbing the powers of President Moi before elections later this year. He was spattered with blood.

Mr Njoya was taken to hospital with a wounded colleague as his followers cried for mercy from the police, watched by astounded tourists gathered in the forecourt of the

exclusive Serena Hotel. Do-reen and David Woodcock had been in Kenya for five hours since arriving from Essex. Mrs Woodcock said that she had been in other Third World countries where there had been trouble but was "disappointed" to be trapped in the hotel by battling police and university students hurling stones. Nearby, outside the Intercontinental Hotel, four men trying to get out of town to avoid the

trouble were set upon by a lorryload of police. They were left gushing blood into a ditch. Jackson Kimbio, an office worker who had been walking home from central Nairobi, staggered along the pavement outside Parliament with a six-inch gash across his head. "These people are animals. I cried for mercy but they just went on beating me. I have no interest in politics but if this is the way Moi wants to keep power, he will fall," he said.

Five soldiers inside the parliament gardens then trapped a young man. They grinned and laughed as each swung pickaxe handles into his head and body. A man passing by yelled himself hoarse begging them for mercy. "Leave the boy alone. He is a human being," he screamed. He was ignored. The protests marked a turning point in Kenyan politics. Conservative by nature, Kenyans have been reluctant to take to the streets in protest

against Mr Moi's corrupt Government. But recent financial scandals and his refusal to register Richard Leakey's Salina movement as a political party have earned him the opprobrium of middle-class Kenyans. As a sign of how corrupt Mr Moi's regime is, one demonstrator was whipped by officers while another went through his pockets and tried to take his wallet. Such scenes come as little surprise in a

country which has a president estimated to be one of the richest leaders in Africa. With the recent eclipse of Mobutu Sese Seko in Zaire, President Moi now ranks as one of Africa's biggest billionaires. Kisumu, Mombasa and Nakuru, Kenya's three largest towns outside the capital, were also rocked by opposition demonstrations calling for a curb to Mr Moi's powers.

Leading article, page 21

Cambodian coup leaves holiday Britons trapped

By TOM FAWTHROPE IN PHNOM PENH AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THOUSANDS of foreigners, including Britons, who were trapped in their hotels in Phnom Penh during Saturday's Cambodian coup were waiting for the country's international airport to reopen yesterday.

Shelling had eased by yesterday, when Second Prime Minister Hun Sen appeared to have taken control of Phnom Penh from forces loyal to First Prime Minister Prince Norodom Ranariddh.

One group of tourists who were to have visited the temples of Angkor Wat in northern Cambodia found themselves trapped in the Juliana Hotel. Joyce McCullum, 59, from Glasgow, who was there with her husband and two children, said she had no intention of leaving the country. She planned to stay with friends in a nearby provincial town. "I'm not afraid. I'm a barmaid and

it sometimes gets pretty rough at night in Glasgow," she said. She felt safe enough in the hotel, but it was running out of food and drink.

Another British national working in Phnom Penh who ventured out on Saturday night said he had been held up at "gunpoint" by soldiers and robbed of his camera and mobile phone. Guests were also trapped in their hotels by an 8pm to 6am curfew imposed by municipal authorities on Saturday.

In London, the Foreign Office said it was concerned about the fighting, but had no immediate plans to evacuate its 360 citizens there. It urged Britons caught up in the trouble to stay in their homes and stock up on water, food and fuel.

There have been no British casualties, and three Britons were among a group of 46 foreigners who reached the

Thai border on Sunday after fleeing the fighting in Battambang province in the northwest, the Foreign Office said.

Looting, disorder and chaos punctuated by police firing warning rounds into the air were the dominant scenes in the Cambodian capital in the aftermath of Hun Sen's coup, which has neutralised all the Phnom Penh strongholds of his former coalition partner, the royalist FUNCINPEC party.

"The airport remained closed yesterday," but flights are expected to resume today, with several evacuation planes organised by the Thai and Australian embassies.

The Royalist forces in Phnom Penh have either surrendered or fled. Prince Ranariddh, who has fled to France, vowed to organise resistance against Hun Sen. "We must have an embassy outside Cambodia," he said.

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Mexicans hail poll as triumph for democracy

FROM TUNKU VARADAKJIAN IN MEXICO CITY

MEXICO swung to the left yesterday as voters dealt the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) its worst setback in seven decades of power, depriving it of control of the lower House of Congress and the capital.

With more than four-fifths of the votes counted in the first unquestionably free elections in the country's history, the left-wing Party of the Democratic Revolution (PRD), led by Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas, made impressive gains in Congress. Señor Cárdenas captured the office of Mayor of Mexico City.

The PRI, which has turned the country into a virtual one-party state during 68 years in power, also conceded defeat in two key gubernatorial elections in the industrial north.

Although full official results will not be released until tomorrow, the preliminary count gives the PRI about 229 of the lower House's 500 seats, a sharp decline from the 302 it held previously. The conservative National Action Party

(PAN) has secured 129 seats, up from 118. The biggest gain, however, was made by the PRD, which has seen its number of seats rise to 126, from 70 in the last elections.

In the Mexico City race, the ruling party's candidate, Alfredo del Mazo, won only 25.4 per cent of the vote. He did, however, win much admiration for the gracious manner in which he accepted his defeat and congratulated his victorious rival — an attitude alien to Mexican political traditions.

President Zedillo, of the PRI, also enhanced his reputation by offering Señor Cárdenas his "heartfelt congratulations". Describing the elections as "an irreversible, definitive and historic step towards democratic normality", he extended his "respectful collaboration" to the new Mayor.

Señor Cárdenas will be no ordinary Mayor. He will be governing a city of nearly 20 million people from offices a stone's throw from President

Zedillo's. He is already the leading candidate for the country's next presidential elections in 2000.

Yesterday, Señor Cárdenas appealed for a "democratic consensus", while also sending soothing signals to investors abroad who are perturbed by his opposition to the North American Free Trade Agreement (Nafta), which links Mexico with the United States and Canada. During his election campaign, he called repeatedly for a "radical modification" of the accord, which he regards as being at the root of Mexico's economic difficulties.

The PAN won the governorships in the prosperous northern states of Nuevo León and Querétaro: in the former, it took 50.4 per cent of the vote, in the latter, 52 per cent.

Buoyed by the party's showing, Vicente Fox, the PAN Governor of the state of Guanajuato, announced yesterday his candidature for the next presidential election, which is beginning to look like a contest between him and Señor Cárdenas, with the PRI possibly resigned to exclusion from Los Pinos, the Mexican "White House".

Analysts were united yesterday in the view that Mexicans had at last entered truly democratic terrain. The positive effect of these elections on the national psyche cannot be exaggerated. The country is in a state of pleasant shock: more than 70 per cent of the 52 million registered voters cast their ballots and there were scarcely

any reports of irregularities. Bewildered citizens, in fact, were treated to the spectacle of an angry complaint to the election commission from the PRI, which has accused a small news agency of "prejudicing" the party's performance by running critical opinion polls on the Internet.

The only real problems were encountered in the troubled southern state of Chiapas, where sympathisers of the Zapatista guerrilla group burnt polling stations and forced several villagers to stay away from the elections. Perhaps the most bizarre incident happened in Guadalajara, where a PAN official observer was arrested after he allegedly tried to rape a four-year-old girl in a polling station.

A mariachi band in Mexico City's main square leads thousands celebrating the election of Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas as Mayor yesterday

Madonna and cow apology in Israel

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM



Hassan Salameh, convicted of masterminding three Hamas suicide bombings which killed 46 people last year, in court in Beit El in the West Bank yesterday. He was sentenced to 46 consecutive life terms.

CHRISTIANS were offered a public apology by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, yesterday after an illustration showing the head of a cow superimposed on the Virgin Mary appeared in a magazine.

Just days earlier, Mr Netanyahu and President Weizman issued separate apologies to the Muslim world after a Jewish extremist distributed posters depicting the Prophet Muhammad as a pig. The posters sparked riots in Hebron and protests in Iran and Bangladesh.

Both the Greek Orthodox and Latin patriarchates protested about the photo-montage in the Hebrew science magazine *Galileo*. Stephan Savitsky, the publisher, told *The Jerusalem Post* that the illustration accompanied an

article on the possibility of a human fetus being born from an animal's womb. "The editors of the magazine, who simply related to the picture [of the Madonna and Child] as that of a mother and child, was unaware of its religious significance," he said — an explanation that caused more fury among Christians.

Mr Netanyahu was quick to respond. "I am deeply sorry about the hurt," he said.

Minister named: Yaakov Neeman, the former Justice Minister, will take over the Finance portfolio, Mr Netanyahu announced. The appointment was part of a complex package of measures designed to overcome further threats of resignation after last month's decision to quit by Dan Meridor, the popular Finance Minister.

Rover and 'Barnacle Bill' meet

Pasadena: The Sojourner rover yesterday became the first mobile vehicle to roam another planet when it travelled 16 inches over the powdery red soil of Mars, coming to a stop face-to-face with a lumpy rock that has been dubbed Barnacle Bill.

"Sojourner and Barnacle Bill are holding hands," Brian Muirhead, deputy project manager, said late on Sunday as a television feed at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory showed the six-wheeled rover next to the rock-marked rock. Sensors showed that it had made contact.

"She is the robotic equivalent of Neil Armstrong on Mars," Henry Moore, a rover scientist, said proudly. "She's your field geologist."

Senate inquiry opens into Democrat campaign funds

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

A US Senate investigation into fund-raising scandals finally opens today as new evidence emerged that Asian money was illegally funnelled into last year's presidential elections.

The investigation, headed by Senator Fred Thompson, the former film actor, is the most extensive yet conducted into the financing of an election. It is seen in Washington as probably the last chance to uncover damaging facts about the November elections, the most expensive in United States history, before attention turns to next year's congressional elections.

The committee has issued 200 subpoenas before the 12 days of hearings it will hold

this month. Republicans have been outraged that Mr Thompson, repeatedly named as a potential candidate for the 2000 presidential race, intends to investigate his own party's finances as well as widespread allegations of illegal or inappropriate Democratic fund-raising.

New reports that Indonesian money was illegally channelled to the Democratic campaign surfaced yesterday. In an apparent leak from Mr Thompson's Governmental Affairs committee, *The Washington Post* reported that John Huang, a former employee of the Commerce Department, had used a property company to funnel money from Indonesia into the Democratic

election campaign. Mr Huang, who at that time was employed by the Indonesian Lippo Group, allegedly used a subsidiary of the group, called Hip Hing Holdings, to channel \$79,000 (£47,000) to the campaign.

Mr Huang, a recurrent figure in the Democratic fund-raising affair, has made clear that he would invoke the Fifth Amendment against self-incrimination if called to testify to Mr Thompson's committee. Another report, in *The New York Times*, said President Clinton took a personal interest in employing Mr Huang, going so far as to ask the Democratic National Committee whether Mr Huang would be hired.

THE TIMES

INTERFACE

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ARTS

The return of Alice Cooper.

IN TOMORROW'S
TIMES

ARTS

The architectural renaissance of Sir Norman Foster.

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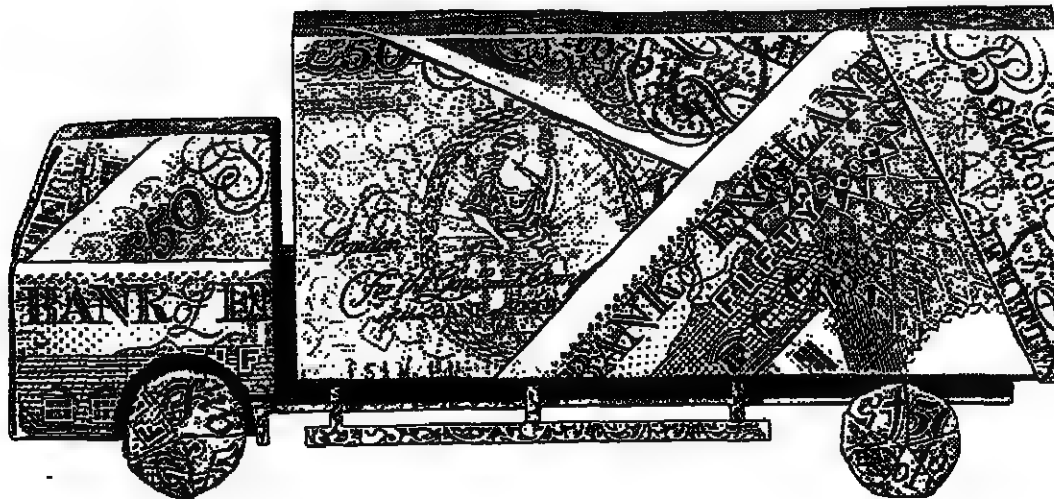
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After being charged, Norman Mailer is escorted from his New York jail cell to speak to his lawyer



THE LAST PARTY

Day two: Novelists Norman Mailer's second wife, Adele, is in a crazed knife attack and the terrified dropouts' madness and neurosis defended their depraved and violent life in a marriage

I felt Norman kick me then he shouted 'Get away from her, let the bitch die'

Norman decided to give a birthday party for our friend Roger Donoghue. It would also serve another purpose. He wanted it to be a promotional party for his campaign as a candidate for the Mayor of New York City. I was so depressed that the last thing we needed to do was throw a big party.

The big event was due to start about nine, but Norman was on his own kick early in the afternoon, smoking pot and swilling bourbon. He got home about eight. He had sobered up a bit, but was still pretty drunk. I showered and put on an expensive black velvet dress. Norman wore a bullfighter's shirt.

Two Martinis before the party helped to quiet the feeling of dread that had been with me all day. By the time the rooms were packed with bodies I'd had a lot more to drink, and was overwhelmed by a feeling of impending danger. Crashers came and went, cartons of liquor disappearing down their gullets. The smell of pot mingled with the odour of unwashed bodies. Canapés and cigarette butts were ground into the carpet.

My husband, whom I'd hardly spoken to given the density of the crowd, had left the party out of his head on booze and drugs. By 4am, everyone had gone but me. Lester Blackiston (a friend of Norman) and a black guy who



Mailer is taken away in a "paddy wagon" after his arrest

may have been a crasher. We were making drunken chatter when, suddenly, Norman appeared, his shirt as torn and bloody as his face. He had a black eye. I hardly recognised him, his face was twisted and he was so drunk I don't think he knew where he was. He charged into the living room like a crazed bull, looking for anyone, anything on which to vent his pain and rage. I stared at him and for one insane moment I became the masochist, waving my red cape, hating him, taunting him, my drunken anguish and fury

have you done? We've got to get her to a hospital." It was amazing how clearly I heard and saw everything - as if it were happening to someone else. I felt Norman kick me. "Get away from her, let the bitch die." The black man tried to pick me up again to get me away from my husband and out of the apartment. Norman shoved him away and I fell back, still conscious. Norman grabbed the guy, punching him as they wrestled all over the room.

Blackiston had left, so there was just the madness of two men fighting while I lay there. Finally, my new friend knocked Norman to the floor, picked me up, ran to the elevator and helped me down to the lobby. There was still a cluster of half-drunk party guests there. Somebody called a doctor and an ambulance. By this time, my rescuer had disappeared into the night. I never saw him again.

Donald Ogden Stewart Jr held my hand, trying to reassure me. But another voice hammered at me to tell the police I'd fallen on a broken bottle. I agreed, too stunned to protest. The police came before the ambulance; they wanted to know who did it. "I don't know," I cried. "There were pieces of broken bottle on the floor, and I tripped and fell." All of Norman's friends, literary and otherwise, had disappeared. The only one with me was Netty, our maid.

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ARTS

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PAGES 18 and 19

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Adele Mailer: Norman 'trashed her life'

Before the stabbing: Adele in Connecticut, pregnant with their second child (above), and with Norman at the Copacabana

who had left the children with one of our friends.

"I'm going to die, aren't I?" I whispered. When we got to the hospital I fainted. I was on the operating table for six hours. When they opened me up, I was haemorrhaging, flooded with blood. An angel's hand had stayed the knife a whisper away from my heart.

Norman's mother came to see me a couple of hours after I was taken from the recovery room. I was still hurting, so weak I could hardly talk. That didn't stop her nagging me to stick to my story about falling on a broken bottle.

Norman slipped into the night after the operation. I panicked and reached for the bell. "Baby, don't do that, I just came to see how you were." "Well, you can see. Now get out," I said, feeling a wave of nausea. He bent to kiss me, and I recoiled. "I just want to talk to you," he said. He looked haggard and strained. There was a silence as he stared at me, frowning. "You didn't tell the police, did you? You're going to stick to the broken-glass story, aren't you?" "Yes, yes, now go away."

He tried to put his arms around me. "Why are you so scared? That's the one thing I can't stand. Do you know, I watched you being wheeled into the operating room, and I'd never seen you look so beautiful. Don't you understand why I did it? I love you; I had to save you from cancer."

There was no apology, no remorse. Only the rantings of a sociopath. Still, he seemed bewildered, and I knew he was scared. I felt completely alone, and despite my fear and anger, I looked into his face

and felt a momentary pity. We were in such terrible trouble. Norman more so because he had never been able to look at himself. He had many intellectually devious ways to hide his feelings so deeply that he had to invent a surface reality. He cried but, even in my grief, I knew his were tears of self-pity. It was all gone between us, and I mourned the tears that were not for me.

The detectives came to question me again. "You have a knife wound, Mrs Mailer, we need you to tell us who did it."

"All right," I sobbed, "my husband did it." After his arraignment, Norman was sent for psychiatric evaluation. At one point, his examining psychiatrist came to see me. He said that in the circumstances, I could easily obtain a divorce. He said Norman had been diagnosed as a paranoid schizophrenic with suicidal and violent tendencies. "No kidding," I said. He added that in his opinion, my husband was dangerous to himself and others, and recommended a series of shock treatments. He had the papers with him, and explained that I was the only one with the authority to sign the release. I was tempted but, in the end, I decided not to.

I was getting advice about pressing charges from all over. Some people advised me to put him in jail, and it was even said it would be good for him, that he would be forced to work on that big novel he had been promising to write. Then there were the "intellectuals" and writers, some of whom had been in that lobby while I waited for an ambulance, who were so afraid for their reputations that they fled as soon as the cops came. Now they were

in my room, not out of concern for me, but for Norman, shoving a petition under my nose. I had to hear again what a tragedy it was for him, great writer, brilliant, blah, blah, blah. They needn't have bothered, since I had no intention of signing the release.

I was in intensive care for three weeks. But after being away for a little more than a month, it was time to go home. Norman was due to come home from Bellevue in about a

'I could have put him away for 15 years; he got five years' probation. Norman was all admiration at my performance'

week, but for now I was alone, exhausted and still weak.

The day of his release, I must have been living in a fantasy. I put on a pretty nightgown and carefully made up my face. The doctor from Bellevue had told me he thought Norman was still agitated and depressed, but there was little I could do about his state of mind. He was coming home to this apartment, and that was it. I told myself that if he were still dangerous, he would still be in hospital. Whatever else had happened, I knew Norman would never harm the children. As for me, what more could he do?

I was still in bed when the doorbell rang. I tried not to cry, aware of my bandages. I had been so lonely, and a small part of me still wanted him back. I readied myself as I

heard him coming down the hall and into the bedroom.

We looked at each other, not touching. His eyes were angry and cold. Mine were full of tears. Neither of us spoke. He bent to kiss me, and I shrank from his touch. "Goddamn it," he swore. "I can't stand you being afraid of me." "I'm sorry," I said. "I have to get used to everything." We made casual conversation, as if nothing had happened. There was so much that neither of us dared talk about.

The grand jury investigation was pending, and Norman asked me to testify that I did not know who had stabbed me. "I will, but that's perjury," I said. I was assured that I would be protected. My grand jury appearance was not for Norman, but for my kids. They loved him, and I didn't want to have them grow up with a father in prison.

I wasn't prepared for the prosecution's grilling but I gave the performance of my life, and Norman was all admiration. In the end, he changed his plea from not guilty to third-degree assault. I could have put him away for 15 years had I testified against him. All he got was five years' probation.

The following winter was a blur. I had my family and his to the house for Christmas. Norman got far from across the country, most repeating his lawyer's comment: "Talent like his must be protected."

Norman's social life escalated. He partied incessantly. I was still in bed, barely able to get around. One night, I asked him to stay home: "I need you. I don't want to be alone tonight." "Tough," he said. It was 6.30am when I heard the front door click. The dam broke and my body shook with the force of my rage. The next

day I called my lawyer.

After our divorce, Norman was in the media constantly. For a hundred Sundays, I drank my morning coffee, reading *The New York Times* - another wife, another book, kudos, Pulitzer prizes, million-dollar contracts, one of the highest advances for a book since Hemingway.

It took 28 years and a couple of bourbon for Norman to blurt out one sentence: "Adele, I'm sorry I trashed your life." It happened at our daughter Betsy's wedding party in 1988 at his apartment. But there was something grudging and condescending in the way he said it.

That year I wrote a one-woman show about my family. Encouraged by its reception, I decided to write Act Two, from age 19 to the present. I took it into my head to read it to Norman. I thought I was doing him a favour: I wanted to read it to him because it centred on everything that happened before and after our divorce.

I tried not to look at him as I read, but when I did, I could see him frowning. I was recreating some painful scenes for us both. At one point, I thought I saw tears in his eyes. But they were immediately covered by a sullen mask.

It ended, and there was silence, neither of us wanting to look at the other. I touched his shoulder. "C'mon Norman," I said, and bent to kiss his cheek. He scowled, turning his head away. I was reaching out for some acknowledgement of the past, that our pain and suffering hadn't been for nothing. "It was a good read," he mumbled. "There's just one thing." Oh-oh, I thought, here it comes. Then he said: "Everything is OK, except I never said 'I'm sorry' to the maid."

Adapted from *The Last Party* by Adele Mailer (Blake Publishing, £16.99)

The last chance for a woman in a swimsuit?

Camilla Parker Bowles would be a fool not to assist in the shaping of her destiny, says Jane Shilling

It must be very odd, being Camilla Parker Bowles. In the aftermath of Diana, Princess of Wales's *Panorama* interview, she was reviled by the media in terms usually reserved for Myra Hindley during one of her periodic bids for freedom.

She was the "third person in the marriage", the bad fairy who turned the dream wedding to dust and ashes. But over the past weekend she has found herself unless she follows the Prince of Wales's habit of ignoring the vulgar press, the subject of an extraordinary volte-face.

With the screening of a sympathetic television biography, the press, the Church of England, in the person of the Archbishop of York — most of middle England.

In fact — have come round to the view that Camilla Parker Bowles is a Good Thing. In the curiously old-fashioned turn of phrase employed by one paper which usually takes a more politically correct line, it is "time to let Prince Charles make an honest woman of Mrs Parker Bowles".

This, you might have thought, would have been the very moment for the Prince and his mistress to dispense with the increasingly absurd subterfuges with which their relationship has for so long been encumbered and allow themselves to be pictured together. But no. Yesterday's royal-watching tabloids had Prince Charles on the inside pages romping paternally with Prince Harry and Tiggy Legge-Bourke during polo at Cirencester. On the front pages, meanwhile, Mrs Parker Bowles stands alone, snapped in a state of fetching undress at the back of her Wiltshire home, the only vantage point from which the paparazzi (and, doubtless, Mrs Parker Bowles herself) know they can grab a shot. She is dressed for a poolside party, in a flowery bathing suit revealing a magnificent cleavage and the sort of fine

hard-muscled thighs that you only get from bouncing about on a hunter for years on end. She looks, as well she might, pensive.

Her position is, however you consider it, a most unenviable one. She is soon to be 50; divorced; her children grown up and she finds herself, in late middle-age,

Charles when they were both much younger ("My great-grandmother and your great-grandfather were lovers, so how about it?"), that she has the perfect blood line for a royal mistress. Like her great-grandmother, Alice Keppel, she has character, a sound temperament, she wouldn't dream of doing anything to frighten the horses.

But while Mrs Keppel was able to pursue her liaison with Edward VII in respectable comfort, acknowledged by the King's immediate social circle, but unknown to the country at large, Mrs Parker Bowles's every move is subject to the judgment of British public opinion in its permanent state of high moral hysteria. For loving the Prince of Wales, she is subject to what he himself



Camilla Parker Bowles: good for the Prince



The Prince: true love?



The Princess: left behind

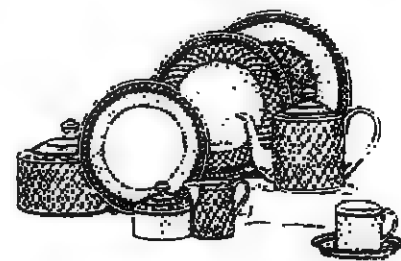
gate tapes described as "indignities and tortures and calumnies". She cannot eat a hogdog at an agricultural show without its making front page news, complete with repellent innuendo.

And as the details of her private life are served up as public entertainment, Prince Charles is said, by the ubiquitous royal "friends", to "prefer to bury his head in the sand" — a position characteristic of his sex and class at times of stress.

The Princess famously complained of being "raped" by the press, yet she enjoyed a status and a degree of protection undreamt of by Mrs Parker Bowles in her deeply lonely and irregular situation. Moreover, the "rape" had, when it suited the Princess, the air of something altogether more consensual.

At a time when it must seem to Mrs Parker Bowles that her personal destiny and future happiness are to be determined by public opinion and the media, she would be a fool not to resolve to take an active part in the shaping of that destiny. And no one, in the midst of all the opprobrium, has ever called her a fool.

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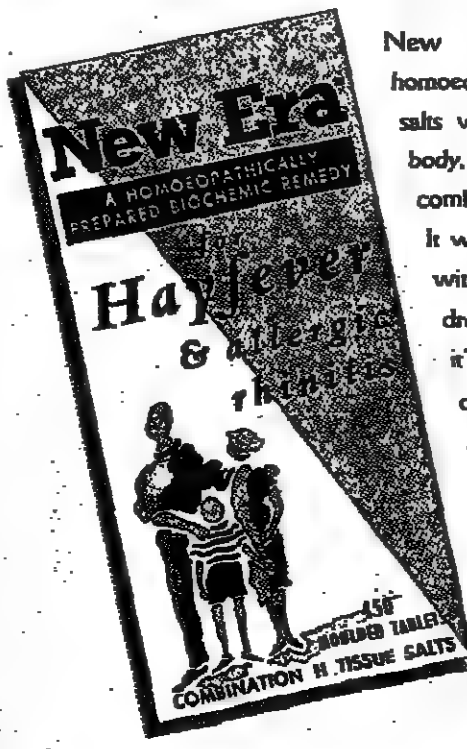
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A National Gallery exhibition sheds new light on a masterpiece, Richard Cork writes



Bathers at Asnières: when first displayed, nobody recognised Seurat's exceptional achievement, and plenty of viewers mocked his grave, hieratic approach to modern life

At an age when most artists are still struggling to discover their vision, Seurat announced his maturity. His monumental canvas *Bathers at Asnières*, painted when he was 24, seems almost effortless. Its figures inhabit the riverside setting with absolute finality. Their grandeur seems unforced and inevitable. Nothing can shake the picture's magisterial calm, and it usually presides over the National Gallery's 19th-century rooms with imperious authority.

For the rest of the summer, though, this prodigious image has been placed at the heart of an enthralling exhibition in the Sainsbury Wing. The pictures accompanying it demonstrate how much thought and labour went into the planning of Seurat's first incontestable masterpiece. The organisers, John Leighton and Richard Thomson, have brought together most of the surviving drawings and paintings he produced in preparation for the *Bathers* canvas. They are the work of an extraordinarily methodical young man, who seems to have advanced with precocious confidence towards a painting worthy to hang beside the masters of the past.

He succeeded in his ambition. *Bathers* could be displayed near Piero della Francesca's work without any

Sunday by the river with George

sense of inadequacy. But when Seurat submitted his painting to the Paris Salon of 1884, it was rejected. Nobody recognised its exceptional achievement, and plenty of viewers mocked Seurat's grave, hieratic approach to modern life.

In one sense, their lack of sympathy is puzzling. After all, *Bathers* proclaims his loyalty to tradition by investing its subject with the stillness and severity of a classical frieze. But perhaps the elevated style Seurat adopted here seemed inappropriate for such a mundane scene. Instead of placing his figures in an idyllic locale he chose an unprepossessing stretch of the Seine outside Paris. It was built up, polluted and, as Monet disclosed in an untitled painting called *Men unloading Coal*, highly industrial. The despondency of that dour, oppressive picture is more akin to Doré's Dickensian

images of London than Monet's usual seductive vision of sunlight and river-dazzle.

Not that Seurat emphasised the grinding drabness of Asnières. He was careful to relegate factories to the distance, where their chimneys take on the elegance of slender Greek columns. The sails on the river could hardly be more pristine, and no hint of soot besmirches the laundered white coat of the man reclining in the foreground.

In several of the delectable small panels Seurat painted while limbering up for his large canvas, horses stand or move through the river. They add an air of enchantment, and I found myself regretting their exclusion from the final painting. But he may have decided that they were too unruly. A bather rides bareback on a white mount in one captivating little oil sketch, and their motion probably

seemed distracting once Seurat had decided to opt for stillness. Another panel, dominated by the unexpected form of a nude, seated child, shows half of a rainbow arching over the factories beyond. Seurat might well have found it overpoetic.

The longer these preliminary paintings are examined, the clearer his subtle intentions become. If he rejected the rainbow because of its picturesque prettiness, he was just as ready to play down the smoke spreading so obtrusively across the sky in another panel. Smoke can still be detected in the big canvas, for Seurat had no desire to pretend that industrialisation did not exist. At the same time, he allows much of its noxious thickness to be subsumed in heat-haze. This ability to evoke the shimmering quality of summer light gives *Bathers* much of its coherence, and helps to explain why all the figures seem spellbound by the sun.

Seurat was a consummate draughtsman, and the exquisite conté crayon studies for

individual bathers illuminate his purpose as well. Drawn for the most part from models posed in his studio, they emerge from the darkness like sculptures encountered in a shadowy museum at night. By making these careful life studies, Seurat was adhering to hallowed academic principles. The poses he favoured likewise display his awareness of Poussin, Ingres and lesser Neo-Classical artists.

Compared with the splashing and wading bodies who enliven some of the small panels, *Bathers* reduces movement to a minimum. In the distance, a boatman rows a top-hatted man and his companion over to the island. But they are diminutive, and the bathers cannot be bothered to smirk at the pomposity of this bourgeois couple and the French flag folded in their sleek, green boat. Seurat may have intended to satirise their stuffiness, and they lack the dignity of the foreground group. On the whole, however, *Bathers* displays scant interest in the social comedy that plays an increasingly brittle part in his later work.

A profound serenity pre-

ails. The sails add a discreet vivacity, and the curves of their sails are echoed in the trees, the inlet slicing through the riverbank and the triangular shadow cast by the seated bather's arm. The figures themselves, though, appear boulder-like in their massive immovability. Each seems curiously isolated and apart, despite the illusion of communal pleasure. An incipient melancholy can be detected in their isolation, and the picture's gravity surely reflects Seurat's own high seriousness.

But it is in no sense a mournful painting. The fascination with light which gives the oil studies so much sparkle is carried over triumphantly to the final canvas. Although Seurat was already fascinated by the challenge of conveying colour's complexities through the play of complementary hues, he had not yet evolved a method. Traces of Pointillism can be found in the dots peppering the orange hat, but they seem little more significant than a scatter of confetti.

What really unifies the painting is the sensuous, supple brushwork, humanising the bathers' remoteness and erupting on the edge of the nearest stretch of riverbank with especially vibrant chromatic intensity. While helping to account for the figures' stupor, this luminous warmth ensures that suburban Asnières is transformed, against the odds, into an everyday Arcadia.

Seurat and the *Bathers*, sponsored by Pearson, is at the National Gallery (0171-747 2885) until Sep 28.

AROUND THE LONDON GALLERIES

THE summer show of French drawings at Hazlitt, Gooden & Fox has become such a fixture of the London art calendar that it comes as something of a surprise that this year's is only the tenth. The selection has little to do with just going for big names: about the biggest here are Bonnard, with an exquisite narrow upright image of a young woman in a public garden, and Maillol with a characteristic nude. But among the lesser men, like Forain, Guys and Anquetin, there are wonders.

Hazlitt, Gooden & Fox, 38 Bury Street, SW1 (0171-930 6422), until July 18

□ DURING the 20th century the still-life has been under something of a cloud. It has never lost its popularity with the conservative collector, but it has been in the critical doldrums, pegged as a minor art form. Then the National Gallery's eye-opening 1995 exhibition *Spanish Still-life* from Velázquez to Goya proved that Meléndez was up there with the greatest Spanish painters, chosen genre notwithstanding. The show *La Nature Morte* is therefore timely. Some may prefer to steer clear of the slightly gruesome assemblages of game birds or fish, but it is perfectly possible, among this array of flowers, fruit and game from 1600 to 1900, to stick with the flower pieces, which are always pretty if sometimes a little overwhelming in their ornateness and wilful virtuosity.

Rafael Vela, 11 Duke Street and 6 Ryder Street, SW1 (0171-930 1144), until July 18

□ CLIFFORD HALL (1904-1973) was a remarkably consistent and productive painter, with a particular feeling for drab London streets, faded South Coast resorts and the slightly sleazy side of popular theatre in London and Paris. He also developed a preoccupation with the enveloped human body, invariably female — women changing under towels on the beach,

women sitting wrapped in comfort blankets in the studio, always turned away from the spectator. It is a small, idiosyncratic world, which becomes more alluring with every year.

Belgrave Gallery, 53 Englands Lane, NW3 (0171-722 5150), until Friday

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CONCERT

THE long arm of coincidence has done it again. Sir Simon Rattle conducting the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in *Belshazzar's Feast* would have been a sensational enough ending to the EMI Centenary Gala in Symphony Hall. But with the vocal forces doubled by the Cleveland Orchestra Chorus, in Birmingham for the Voices in the City festival, the effect was awesome.

If the participation of nearly 400 voices could do nothing to enhance textual clarity, well prepared though both contingents were, it certainly did everything for oragmatic excess. In fact, after *Belshazzar* — through Walton's wickedly pagan choral writing and Rattle's fearless application of dynamic energy — had inspired such an acoustic feast, one could only regret that he was so peremptorily slain for it. The celebration of his demise had all the virtues of buoyancy and brilliance, not to mention the high comedy of an early organ entry in the closing bars, but it was tame in comparison.

As for the writing on the wall, though it spells out Richard Strauss as clearly as anything else, it was a spine-chilling moment. The baritone soloist Simon Keenlyside was even more effective here than in his more oratorical utterances earlier on.

For Elgar's *Violin Concerto* Nigel Kennedy returned to a role which, until he recorded *The Four Seasons* and then so wisely took refuge in long-term time-out, was in public perception exclusively his. He still does the clowning bit, as he demonstrated by using his button-holing of the audience to introduce two movements of unaccompanied Bach (the *Prelude in E* and the *Adagio in C*), he is no less serious a musician for that.

Indeed, his interpretation of the Elgar concerto was so serious that his disproportionately lingering interpretation of the cadenza put the last movement quite out of shape. But he did play beautifully here, as he had in the *Andante*, where the sweetness of the sound did much to compensate for the sometimes abrasive quality of the bravura passages in high positions in the first movement. And for sheer physical and emotional stamina his performance is even more impressive than it was before.

Gala charity concerts (this one was in aid of EMI's Music Sound Foundation) are not usually associated with first performances. It is to the credit of this one that, alongside the soft centre and the hard edge of British music, it postulated a taurine fringe in the form of Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Four-Horned Tango*. The horns are actually those of the CBSO, for whom the work was written, but there is something bullish about the piece in the way it keeps it head down and charges about without actually making contact where it hurts.

Rarely exploiting the upper register of the solo instruments, and restricting orchestral participation largely to strings and percussion, it begins in the depths like Ravel's *La Valse*, retains its characteristically dark colouring throughout and develops a powerful rhythmic thrust without, frustratingly, opening out melodically or texturally.

GERALD LARNER

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

SAINT-SAËNS'S *SAMSON ET DALILA*
reviewed by Roger Nichols

THE third of Saint-Saëns's 12 operas, *Samson et Dalila* is alone in having gained a place in the repertory. A place hardly won, too. First conducted the premiere in Weimar in 1877, but only in 1892 did the Paris Opera design to follow suit.

The work's popularity is due largely to Dalila's three wonderful arias and to the opportunities for a Samson who is both lover, religious leader and demolisher of temples. Of the seven recordings available, the oldest — taken from a live performance at the New York Met in 1936 — features Ezio Pinza as the High Priest. But unfortunately the level of surface noise rules it out. The studio recording made ten years later, under Louis Roussier (EMI CMS 5 65263-2), while also marred by tinny sound, is well worth studying for the wonderfully fluent and stylish singing of José Luccioni and Hélène Bouvier.

One of the main difficulties in singing *Dalila* is to convey both her sensuality and desire for vengeance. Elena Obratsova and Rita Gorr, in recordings conducted by Barenboim and Prétre, impress on the vengeance front but too often abjure the tenderness.

To order the recommended recording, with free delivery, please send a cheque payable to The Times Music Shop to FREEPOST, SCO681, Forbes, IV36 0BR or phone 0345 023 498; e-mail: music@the-times.co.uk

Next Sat, Radio 3 (8am): Handel Coronation Anthems



Another live stage recording, from the 1988 Bregenz Festival, features Maryana Lipovsek and Carlo Cossutta, with Sylvain Cambreling conducting. Here it is the Samson who is too unresponsive to melting moments.

This leaves two contenders. The 1989 version conducted by Sir Colin Davis (Philips 426 243-2) has a passionate Samson in José Carreras, and for unparalleled storms, climaxes and choral fun; only the presence of a somewhat harsh Agnes Baltsa spoils it.

The dream team consists of Plácido Domingo and Waltraud Meier, on the most recent recording with forces of the Paris Opera-Bastille conducted by Myung-Whun Chung (EMI CDS 7 54470-2, £31.99), who responds vividly to the continuous fluctuations of emotion and texture. Domingo is heroic but never crass, while Meier is utterly convincing as both seductress and viper.

Seurat
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Benedict Nightingale sees the serious and rather sad side of Vanbrugh's comedy of marriage

Her old man's a dustbin

If people marry for love or money rather than love or even liking, and they are also of very different ages and dispositions, is it surprising if the conjugal bed is not a hugely serene spot? And is there not a point at which holy deadliness becomes so degrading that fidelity can no longer be demanded of either men or women?

Divorce, alimony, and Californian-style tolerance of everything short of incest have

taken the sting out of these questions in our era; but they dog Restoration and post-Restoration comedy, at times creating a palpable unease amid the fluttering fans.

The Old Vic programme goes on so long and earnestly about this topic that one approaches *The Provok'd Wife* itself with apprehension. Will Lindsay Posner's production of Vanbrugh's play prove to be a sort of study-kit too?

Well, some of the proceedings could be funnier, and some of the acting could be wittier too. But at other times — when, for instance, Tim McInerney's Heartfree is agonising about whether he fears marriage more than he loves Clare Swinburne's Bellinda — there is a fine balance between the serious and the comic sides of the play.

But McInerney's delicious vacillations belong more to the subplot than the main one. That concerns the cataclysmically mismatched Brutes. "She's a witty lady, a virtuous lady, yet I hate her," says Michael Pennington's Sir John at the start, his disbelieving emphasis suggesting a tourist who has booked into a five-star hotel that someone has omitted to build. And Victoria Hamilton's Lady Brute reciprocates by launching into a diatribe with



Michael Pennington is a well-named Sir John Brute and Alison Steadman an equally appropriate Lady Fanciful

Andrew Woodall's suavely plausible Constant. How did things get to such a pass after two years of marriage? From the way Hamilton flinches when Pennington moves to touch her it is clear there have been problems in the bedroom; but, given the way Pennington looks, it is clearer that these problems are not wholly of her making. His scrubbed ginger hair, toby-jug ears, and sour, pink face are the least of it. His table-manners consist of stick-

ing his knife into the board and dancing furiously on it, and his notion of foreplay is either to wiggle his tongue lasciviously in his wife's face or to fall on her with slobbering grunts of "we may go pig together".

Pennington rejects the gentility Garrick reputedly brought to the part, and is less funny in the famous scenes where a tipsy Sir John rumples through London in drag. He is coarser, more frustrated, angrier.

The impression he leaves is of a job Peter Pan unable to understand why he cannot always be a little boy and have fun or, after a night of drinking and fighting, of a big baffled oaf on the run from a slaughterhouse. It is a bold and, in his helpless, woozy way, touching performance. That's more than can be said for Hamilton's pert, jumpy Lady Brute, who scurries about John Cumber's set like a mouse on speed.

Cumber's designs are among

the evening's successes, including as they do dangling trees that resemble cavaliers slyly peering from green canopies, and on Lady Fanciful's wall, the Restoration counterparts of plaster ducks: Eros with pants on, pants half-off and pants gone. Is it the right decor for a busybody sex-fantasiast who, as Alison Steadman plays her, emits brash screeches of narcissistic glee from inside a dress that makes her look like a foaming creme de menthe? I would say so.

Mixing it until the curtain falls

DANCE
Royal Ballet
Covent Garden

William Forsythe's *Stepped*, on the other hand, seeks to depersonalise its dancers, turning them into anonymous robots capable of extreme physical distortion. His aggressive essay in classical deconstruction and audience manipulation — yes, Mr Forsythe is responsible for that annoying on-off lighting that does make the dancer's own personality, but Kumakawa looked as if he was taking a night off. Sarah Wilder, as his "little date", was dreamy, though, and Dorey Russell, as his "big date", looked terrific in her bowler hat.

she is back dancing just as beautifully as ever. Her *Talisman Pas de Deux* with Irek Mukhammedov was as light as whipped cream (at least on her part), charming, demure and utterly romantic. Only sheer willpower gets Mukhammedov into the air for those big jumps these days, but he is still a wonderful partner.

Yoshida also graced the First Movement of Balanchine's glorious *Symphony in C* (set to Bizet), adding glamour to her long list of fine qualities. Rachael Whitbread has improved enormously in the Second Movement adagio, far more secure in those fiendish balances. Christina McDermott was appropriately vivacious in the Third Movement, well on top of Balanchine's witty allegro writing, and Nicola Roberts played an exhilarating finale.

DEBRA CRAINE



Tetsuya Kumakawa in *Push Comes to Shove*

BARELY off the plane from their recent travels to Japan, and already packing their bags for their trip to New York next week, the dancers of the Royal Ballet returned to the Covent Garden House on Saturday afternoon to say goodbye to their old theatre. Their summer season is short: only four performances in total of a revived bill before next Monday's opera and ballet gala closes the house for its two-year redevelopment.

Saturday's offering was indeed mixed, one of those "something for everyone" bills. Twyla Tharp's *Push Comes to Shove* is light-hearted and entertaining, a slick vehicle for Tetsuya Kumakawa. He didn't quite fire the way he did at the Covent Garden premiere in February, although he did strut, slide and wiggle through Tharp's snappy choreography to Haydn's Sym-

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TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Massey

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jersey Kingdon's management of the new theatre in London

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CINEMA GUIDE

David Brown's management of the new cinema in London

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OPERA & BALLET

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Give Nato the tools to finish its job

Michael Portillo returns to the fray with advice for the Madrid summit

As the Madrid summit opens this morning, Nato has much to celebrate. Two years ago its leading members were locked in disagreement over Bosnia, and the organisation appeared powerless to halt the slaughter. The end of the Cold War had removed Nato's reason for existence, and the alliance had yet to discover a new role and purpose.

It looks different now. Nato took effective action in Bosnia, first by bombing the Bosnian Serbs, then by deploying large-scale ground forces in support of the Dayton agreement. It has been a thoroughly effective operation, which defined a new role for Nato in promoting security beyond the territory of its members.

Those successes will rightly be celebrated at Madrid. The enlargement of Nato to include countries from the former Warsaw Pact is especially significant. Russia protested against any enlargement and launched an effective campaign to woo opinion formers and editors in the West. It has succeeded in convincing many that Nato's expansion to Russia's borders is an affront to its pride and will be a source of future instability.

I see it differently. We must not allow the world to be frozen in the Yalta pattern of 1945. We cannot allow the Russians to believe they have a continuing sphere of influence over sovereign nations. Stability in Europe depends mainly on entrenching the new democracies. They will flourish only if they feel secure, and as Nato members they will. There are more democracies in Europe today than ever, and since democracies do not invade each other, the prospects for stability are correspondingly good. The admission of the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland is therefore an historic achievement and the agreement with Russia a triumph of diplomacy. But the alliance faces important challenges. To start with, Nato has not properly redefined its purpose. The Russians believe it still exists to deter them. Nato denies it. The Western European public no longer feels threatened by anybody, and its governments continue to cut defence spending. Nato does not see Russia as the most likely threat. We hope it will remain democratic. We are more likely to be threatened by one of the militant dictatorships now developing weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missiles, and exporting terrorism. As the Gulf War demonstrated, to protect our allies or our interests, we may need to fight in high-intensity conflict far from home. The Roman dictum was: "If you want peace, prepare for war." Notice "war", not "peacekeeping". It would be a great mistake if Nato began to think of itself as a replacement United Nations. Nato must articulate its purpose better and stop cutting its defences. Otherwise the dictators will think us weak-willed.

France is keen to establish a more visible security and defence identity for Europe. That risks being a sideshow. Europeans ought to do more for themselves, but will not be able to do so if they continue to spend less. France would like to see more European generals in top Nato jobs. The Americans will not allow the Sixth Fleet to come under a European commander. The danger is that we will end up with chains of command that would be ineffective in an emergency.

Nato has been through a period of self-congratulation, but it has a whiff of decadence and its forces

have become "hollow": they look fine on paper, but they lack numbers, training, spares and mobility. At the same time, the Americans have galloped ahead in developing the "electronic battlefield", leaving a substantial technology gap between themselves and the rest of the allies. It is in America's interests to ensure that Nato can fight coherently and this means that, despite Washington's reluctance to share knowhow, it must at least put its allies in a position where their unit commanders can receive and decode essential battlefield data.

The enlargement of Nato is both a triumph and a problem. A larger alliance has to be ratified by national parliaments and, of course, by Congress. The Nato treaty rests upon accepting that an attack on any member state is an attack on all. American senators may just accept the proposal to extend that guarantee to the Poles, Czechs and Hungarians: but will they in future also swallow similar guarantees to the Baltic states?

The Russians are, to put it mildly, jittery about Nato forces in the Baltic. Nato wants to reassure them, but also make plain its concern for the sovereignty of the "Baltic Three" and Ukraine. The new democratic governments in those countries insist that Madrid keep open the door for their admission. In practice, Nato may eventually have to choose between remaining a hard-edged military alliance with somewhat limited membership, or becoming a softer-looking club of democratic nations that can take in everyone — including even Russia. Looking towards that choice today, the world still looks far too dangerous for Nato to assume a softer form, which makes it all the more important to develop other sorts of links with the Baltic and Ukraine.

The world still looks too perilous for Nato to assume a softer form

Nato's most immediate challenge remains Bosnia. It has been an alliance success, but it isn't over till it's over. Nato says it will pull out a year from now, so the former warring factions feel they can drag their feet, and resume unfinished military business when the foreign troops have left. Nato must make it clear that it will not tolerate a return to war. The international community needs to put much more effort into providing administrators and police forces. It is incredible that with so much at stake, the international civilian effort, in contrast to the military one, should have been so feeble. Nor can Nato seriously contemplate leaving Bosnia with the indicted war criminals still at large.

We should also be worried about America's policy of providing arms and training to the Bosnian Muslims. The policy was devised at a time when the Bosnian Serbs were clearly better armed and more effective in battle. But the policy now risks producing an imbalance in favour of the Muslims which could be just as destabilising. If Nato were to withdraw, leaving Karadzic in control of the Serbs, and conditions in which war quickly reignited, the impact on the alliance would be devastating.

So even while the glasses are raised in celebration in Madrid, Nato ministers must now work hard if Bosnia is not to be again the cause of division between the allies, and a symbol of Nato's impotence.

The author was Secretary of State for Defence, 1995-97.

Gordon Brown is trying to complete the Tories' post-industrial revolution, says Anatole Kaletsky

If you are confused by last week's Budget, don't worry — you are in good company. The City, the media, the political parties and the business lobbies are equally at sixes and sevens.

The Budget was criticised by previously sympathetic City analysts for not taking enough money out of the citizens' pockets, while the National Association of Pension Funds denounced it as the most audacious daylight robbery since Robin Hood. To balance such attacks from the City, the Chancellor was showered with vitriol on Sunday by Ken Livingstone, the self-appointed spokesman of the Left.

What is going on? In a sense all the confusion can be boiled down to one issue: a fundamental disagreement among economists about what Budgets are for. One side, broadly described as Keynesians, believe that the Budget is the main annual opportunity for the Chancellor to regulate the balance of the economy and help to control inflation by adjusting taxes and public spending. The other side insists that Budgets should merely review

If Britain goes bust, don't blame the Budget

the Government's spending and tax priorities, with the aim of levying just enough revenues to pay for public spending and to stabilise the national debt. On this view it is up to the Bank of England to keep the economy on a steady non-inflationary course by manipulating interest rates and allowing sterling to move up and down.

If the Budget were being used in a Keynesian manner, then the Chancellor should arguably have raised taxes more harshly and aimed them at consumers. These higher taxes might have helped to control potential inflation, taking some of the upward pressure off interest rates and preventing a further malignant hardening of the money market. But if the Budget's job was merely to balance the books, then what Mr Brown did was absolutely

right. He raised enough money to pay for the public spending plans inherited from the Tories, and to keep the national debt on a steady downward course. The only point of levying higher taxes would have been to finance more public expenditure — a course Mr Brown had firmly forewarned, at least until April 1999.

So which approach to the Budget is the right one? In the view of the Keynesians (myself included), taxes should be actively manipulated, alongside interest rates and the exchange rate, to control inflation and manage demand. But my opinion is irrelevant. What matters is that the Treasury, the Bank and the City all firmly espouse the opposite point of view. They believe in the monetarist credo that inflation is always and everywhere a

monetary phenomenon, which can only be controlled through high interest rates. By making the Bank independent, Mr Brown institutionalised this doctrine and made it impossible to implement the alternative view that changes in taxes and interest rates should be coordinated to manage demand.

To expect Mr Brown to return to Keynesian demand management in his very first Budget would have been both absurd and futile, since the Bank would be bound by its monetarist anti-inflation mandate to raise interest rates anyway. It is therefore both inconsistent and unrealistic for anyone who supported an independent Bank of England to criticise the Budget for failing to stifle inflation and consumer demand.

In new Labour's new Britain,

controlling inflation is up to the central bank and to nobody else. This means inevitably that anti-inflation policy will produce high interest rates and an overvalued exchange rate, putting the whole burden of adjustment on manufacturers and metal-bashing exporters. Ken Livingstone, for one, is therefore right to complain on behalf of old Labour's traditional manual, working-class supporters. But Mr Brown's new Britain is a middle-class country, indifferent to the fate of British Steel, ICI and their workers. And perhaps this indifference is right.

Perhaps the City and the rest of the service sector can pay Britain's way in the world, even at exchange rates that cripple traditional manufacturing exporters. The Tories started to turn Britain into a post-industrial economy in 1979. Now Mr Brown, with the help of an independent central bank, can complete the job. With luck, Britain will become the New York or California of Europe. And if things go wrong? Then blame Mr Brown's decision on the Bank of England, not his Budget.

Nourished by principle

Resignations over baby-milk carry a message for the compromising Nineties

The member — an honourable member indeed — stood firm, unmoved by the majority view that the money in the large brown envelope was nothing to fuss about; useful, indeed, and sorely needed. None of this counted, next to the uncomfortable promptings of a sharpened individual conscience. The member knew that after years of service and passionate belief a refusal to compromise would mean resigning from the band of like-minded people on which life had been centred for many years. It would mean standing alone in the outer darkness and being damned as a prig.

There may have been moments of private doubt: did a bit of money really make all that difference? Surely you could take it, and not compromise your principles? These are the sophisticated Nineties — perhaps one could live with it. Nothing wrong in letting big business assist good work. In this case nothing illegal or even unusual was being considered; and most other members seemed happy enough with the ethics of the deal. It was a thin, almost invisible, line which the member was refusing to cross, and a long, happy association being risked. Maybe, in the member's heart, there was a moment of wavering.

But it was no good. Conscience prevailed, and in tears, some 40 breastfeeding counsellors resigned last week from the National Childbirth Trust (somewhat, I daresay, you may have guessed by now that I was not talking about the Conservative Party. Or even new Labour).

In the case of the NCT women it was not the fear of personal corruption which made them dig their heels in, but of collective corruption. They just could not accept the leadership's pragmatic decision to accept £40,000 in sponsorship from Sainsbury's — for Sainsbury's sells an own-brand powdered baby milk in a pretty floral canister; and a large part of the NCT's work is to persuade women that, if physically possible, it is better to offer a newborn baby its mother's milk straight from the usual container.

Which it is, actually: I doubt you will find a respectable doctor to gainsay it, even though made-up milks provide a vital safety net when nature plays a dirty trick on mother and child and makes breastfeeding impossible. Respect-

able baby-milk manufacturers do not deny it either, although there have been scandals about companies such as Nestlé pushing formula milk on "Third World" mothers as a "modern" option, even when those mothers are unlikely to have clean water or the wherewithal to sterilise bottles.

Nobody in this dispute has been suggesting that Sainsbury's in any way is an unprincipled company, or pushes powdered milk at mothers to maximise its profits. It is just that the rebels thought that their independent status of advisers would be compromised by such an association. They had hair-trigger consciences and could not ignore them. So they left. You do not have to agree with their stance to admire their sacrifice.

Indeed this heading, almost suicidal, display of principle comes as something of a refreshment: like Anouilh's uncompromising St Joan in the play, or Kipling's common soldier giving his life rather than knowhow. We need such examples, the "sharp editing" and economy with truth which marked the Aitken libel case, and the even more queasy experience of watching the response of Neil Hamilton to the Downey report. Here on display were consciences which had been tamed and adjusted and kept for years under such perfect control that they were no trouble whatsoever to their owners.

Indeed, the one thing which unites all those involved in the myriad sleaze inquiries of the past few years is a certain fat-witted arrogance which is genuinely incapable of believing that a chap like oneself — bold and free and original — could ever be compromised just by taking a bit of tribute. Whereas these unfortunate breastfeeding counsellors of the NCT — volunteers, rarely affluent, hard-working — were so haunted by principle that they could not accept even an association with tainted money which they, personally, would never see. They strained at a gnat, while Hamilton, Smith, Aitken and the rest smiled smugly and swallowed elephants.

I am sad about the NCT counsellors, particularly because I owe a lot to one of them, whose freely given services enabled me 14 years ago to feed my first child. I had serious difficulties, as many women do (yes, yes, gentlemen, I



am aware that we are in mixed company. I will spare you the details. Without the slightest hint of patronage, and without deriding me for having resorted to a few bottles early on, Nicky, of the Greenwich NCT, advised, supported, visited, instructed, and cheerfully accepted lachrymose telephone calls at Sam. In the end, we triumphed.

I want to pay this tribute, because NCT zealots in general and breastfeeding counsellors in particular are the butt of so much teasing and caricature, even among the women they are there to help. Those women whose identity is rooted strongly in being chic and sexy, or businesslike and tough, often resent the earthy, dumpy, underdog, this internal struggle and so publicly lost the group of angry rebels. They force us all to focus, albeit uncomfortably, on what commercial sponsorship always to some degree implies.

Since "business partnership" is an ever-growing area, it does no harm to be reminded that, however big the money, without a set of very strict and overt rules it can mutate into a kind of corruption. Schools and colleges take money from business; schools, more disturbing-

ly take commercial teaching packs with a slant to them from bodies like the meat trade, the Vegetarian Society, Nuclear Electric, and supermarkets. Journalists accept ritz hospitality and fail to mention it in their copy. Magazines run "advertisements", letting their house style be used by advertisers. Charities are sometimes so desperate for sponsorship that they fail to notice how disproportionate a favour they are doing the business by sharing their clean image. Local authorities involve themselves in "planning gain" agreements in which the town gets a swimming pool in return for the green light for a superstore or power station. Broadcasters get uncomfortably close to football clubs, film-makers dabble in the murky waters of product placement.

Small half-corruptions are all around us every day. Some are innocuous and reasonable ways of getting commerce to contribute to society; others more insidious. But it does no harm, in an age when most of us think more like a Hamilton or Aitken, to be shown the opposite extreme. I am sorry the counsellors felt they had to go, but entirely glad that — feeling as they did — they had the bottle to do it.

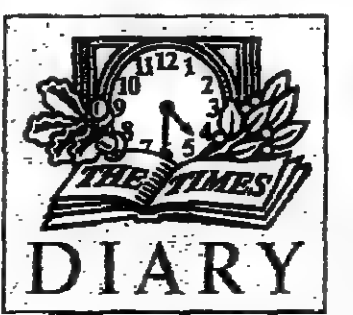
Boat hook

PEACE at last for John Major, the former Prime Minister, who is spending his parliamentary recess on John Paul Getty's yacht, *Talitha G*. Both Getty and Major are huge Surrey cricket fans, and they struck up a friendship in the directors' boxes at the Oval. Getty has remained in London, while Major, his family, and some friends from East Anglia, understood to include Baroness Blatch, the former Home Office Minister, and her family, cruise the Mediterranean.

"The holiday is basically a present from John to Norma," says

a close friend of the Majors. "Since the election they have been living out of boxes and have not really had time to unwind. It will be the first time in more than ten years that John has gone on holiday without his red boxes."

Getty's yacht is quite a place to unwind. After the Majors are done with her, the Duke of Edinburgh will be taking her on to use at Cowes Week as a replacement for the decommissioned *Briannia*. At 217ft-long, she is among the 20 largest yachts in the world. Getty bought her in 1986 from the



Australian impresario Robert Sigwood, then spent £10 million refitting her. She has hand-crafted wood veneers, marble bathrooms, a crew of 18, and is named after Getty's first wife, Tabitha Pol, who died of a heroin overdose in Rome in 1972.

John Wells, the satirist and a regular yacht guest of Getty, says: "There is a Jacuzzi on the foredeck which the former Prime Minister should enjoy."

Easy money

THERE is an added zing to the summer holiday plans of Etonians leaving school this year, after a gift of £10,000 to the school from a Slough financial services firm to encourage "leadership and responsibility". The money has been div-

vied up mainly among the 50 or so heads of house and games captains. Each of the chosen boys has received a cheque of up to £200, to do with what he will.

David Ainslie, group legal director at Towry Law, which regularly advertises in Eton publications, explains that the awards are part of an annual £4-million handout to worthy educational causes and not a long-term strategy to win future clients for their school fees prepayment plan. One boy has written to thank Towry Law for the money, which he promises to spend on a Christian missionary expedition. For most, however, the cheque should prove useful holiday spending money.

Asked whether there might not be more worthy causes to spend money on than the summer holidays of 18-year-old Etonians, Ainslie replies: "There are always more worthwhile things to spend money on."

Bust-up

SOME of those who bought the dresses auctioned by Diana, Princess of Wales, have been heard grumbling. Joan Rivers, the comedian who fronted the television coverage at the Christie's sale in New York last month, told *The New*

York Post yesterday: "One prominent woman finally got around to trying on the Di dress she bought and it had to be a size 16. Diana sure as hell was never that size."

The buyers had clearly not heeded the pre-sale warnings that some of the dresses had been given by Diana to friends who had then had them altered to accommodate less gym-toned figures.

Only the thought of the £2 million they helped to raise for Aids research can console the numerous notable Anglophiles in America,



who had hoped to be dressed like a princess, but instead find themselves billowing around the behind in a most un-Diana-like way.

For all their tribal ritual, London's gentlemen's clubs are like knitting circles compared with their Italian counterparts. As the Caccia Club, in Rome, a club so grand it has blackballed members of the Fiat-owning Agnelli family for being too nouveau riche, the president, the Marchese Sacchetti, Governor of the Vatican, has been forced to resign. It would be as if the Duke of Devonshire were to resign from White's. His crime was to propose for membership a well-known Italian general who had no aristocratic lineage.

Loved one

EVEN by her own high standards, Lady d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, wife of the late bullion-broker Sir Henry d'Avigdor-Goldsmid, would have been pleased with the organisation for her funeral, held last week in All Saints' Church at Tudeley, Kent. More than 300 guests — including Elie de Rothschild, Christopher Soames and Lord and Lady Aberavenny — came to pay their respects to the cigar-smoking hostess. Late arrivals watched the ser-



Lady d'Avigdor-Goldsmid

vice on a huge television screen in a marquee outside the church. The high point was a rendition of Cole Porter's *What is this thing called Love*, sung by a London choir which had been driven down especially for the service. The funeral was followed by a lavish champagne buffet. "It was tremendous fun," says one exhausted mourner. "The only person who looked a little iffy was the ex-Bishop of Rochester, who took the service. He looked more *Onward Christian Soldiers*, than Cole Porter."



LABOUR'S STANDARDS

An Education White Paper to extend excellence

The Labour Government has already driven up expectations with a rhetorical emphasis on education pitched higher than that of the last administration. With the publication yesterday of *Excellence in Schools*, the Education White Paper, the Government has also produced policy proposals for improving standards more coherent and all-embracing than any of the initiatives introduced by John Major's Government.

In doing so, Labour ministers embrace men and measures that they have spent much of the past fighting. The comparative tests which are the best guarantee of achievement and which have already contributed to an improvement in standards were, initially, opposed by Labour. The breadth, scale and rigour of the White Paper's proposals, however, demonstrate that this Government has done more than just absorb and regurgitate parental concerns. It now has them by heart.

The White Paper sets out the areas where the Government expects schools to do better, the methods it believes will secure higher standards and the mechanisms to promulgate best practice. The Education Secretary, David Blunkett, has set tough targets and, with a feeling for incentives as sure as any salesman, will link extra spending to improved results. Work will continue on identifying the best teaching methods but there will be an unambiguous commitment to using phonics for reading lessons and whole-class teaching for maths. Parents will understand these terms better as traditional teaching methods, and pupils will, as a result, understand better.

Teachers' performance will be monitored. By Ofsted under an inspection regime which will be, if anything, more Prussian than before. There will be a shorter period of notice before inspections begin; greater scrutiny of individual classroom practice and wider dissemination of performance

data. But Labour offers a partnership, inviting teachers to see the drive for standards as a crusade for pupils rather than a jihad against teachers. It is an offer that should be grasped.

The Government also hopes to involve parents in its work. Refinements to school league tables should enable parents to make better judgments about schools, and join in applying pressure for improvement. It has been the publication of test results that has most starkly exposed failing schools and highlighted excellence. The Government proposes to publish not just the school's final level of performance but the relative levels of achievement at different stages.

Many schools, particularly in inner-city areas, have a high pupil turnover which makes comparisons difficult. The Government hopes, eventually, to have the capacity to measure how schools affect individual pupils' improvement. Parents will still have the raw figures which reveal which schools perform best, but more information will allow other assessments to be made.

The character of a school, and its capacity to improve, depend to a great deal on the quality of the head teacher. One of the White Paper's many overdue innovations is the creation of a fast-track scheme to identify teachers with leadership potential and train them. The Government hopes to adopt talent-spotting techniques from private enterprise and will balance this new path to promotion with the creation of a new grade for advanced skills teachers. These will be teachers with pedagogic gifts which deserve recognition, but whom it is vital to keep in the classroom and who might otherwise seek promotion out of it.

Ultimately, the education system should strive for as great a variety of choices for teachers, parents and pupils as possible. This White Paper is a confident stride towards a welcome extension of opportunity.

THUGGERY IN THE CATHEDRAL

President Moi's brutality will be the ruin of Kenya

Led by clergymen and MPs, a group of Kenyans was at prayer yesterday in Nairobi's All Saints Anglican Cathedral when President Daniel arap Moi sent in the riot police. Through the tear gas Timothy Njoya, a priest held in high national respect, advanced towards them with his hands raised in surrender. He was kicked to the ground and savagely clubbed on the head.

This was, no riot, until the Government made it one. It was a case of unprovoked and unaccountable brutality, ordered by the State, against people assembled to pray for such elementary things as free speech and accountable government. If further confirmation were required of the urgency of political and social reform in Kenya, it is provided by the atrocities witnessed in Nairobi by our correspondent Sam Kiley, reported on page 14. If confirmation were required that President Moi would rather destroy the last vestiges of public trust in authority than give way to legitimate calls for constitutional reform, then that is provided by this latest demonstration of his contempt for law as well as for life.

In Nairobi, many of the civilians seized at random, battered with pick-axes and robbed of their possessions by military, police and Kenya's feared paramilitary General Service Unit were not even participating in yesterday's nationwide demonstrations for political reform. Among the dead elsewhere in the country was a teenager shot as he ran from the police — another young victim in a country where already this year, students such as Solomon Muriu have met violent deaths for daring to complain about official corruption and where hundreds are in prison without trial. With every death, the prospect recedes of solving Kenya's deepening crisis by peaceful political means.

President Moi may believe that if he is sufficiently ruthless he can crush the life out of dissent itself. To a large degree, this has been possible in the past, partly because

Kenya's political opposition was badly fragmented but also because external pressure from the Western governments whose taxpayers help to prop up his scandal-ridden regime has been intermittent and half-hearted. The demands that unite the Kenyan churches, civil organisations and opposition politicians are for constitutional reforms before the elections due later this year, which they are right to contend will otherwise be a farce. Mr Moi's response is to destroy law and order by turning peaceful demonstrations into bloody battles, the better to argue that the "atmosphere is not conducive to discussion of constitutional reforms".

This deadlock must be broken. External pressure can be effective, as was shown in 1992 when a gathering foreign aid boycott compelled Mr Moi to stage multiparty elections. But because he calculated, correctly as it turned out, that he could get away with it, he rigged the results. The West turned a blind eye then; out of self-interest if not out of sympathy for the Kenyan people, it now needs to make up for that failure.

Self-interest exists at two levels, political and economic. Politically, the Kenyan brush is even dirtier than it was in 1992: the downfall of Zaire's dictator, President Mobutu, has galvanised opposition. Demonstrators chant the name of Laurent Kabila. Kenyans do not want civil war, but increasingly, they see little alternative. At the economic level, the case for political reform is strengthened by official corruption and financial scandal so massive that only fools or knaves would now dream of investing in Kenya. The International Monetary Fund is rightly suspending loans after the collapse of court proceedings in the Goldenberg affair, a massive fraud involving fictitious exports of gold and diamonds which reaches right to the heart of Government. On Kenya, Britain's voice matters and Robin Cook has said that in his Foreign Office, human rights will take centre stage. His lead is awaited.

BYRON THE COALMINER

Romantic legends of bills and burrowings

Newstead Abbey, Byron's childhood home near Nottingham, has been falling down for centuries. But until now its romantic Byronic dilapidation has been created by appropriately Byronic fecklessness and shortage of funds. Its latest ruin, however, may be caused by coalminers digging underneath it where even the National Coal Board once feared to delve.

It is true that the prospective miners have taken out a bond to repair any damage they may cause. But all the bonds in Lombard Street may be inadequate to put together again the soft stone and crumbling walls of Newstead. Byron himself could have turned a witty canto about the absurd gap in legislation that requires no planning permission for underground working in an island built on coal. He might have made a barbed paradox about the new mining technology that still causes subsidence half a mile above underground workings.

For Byron has always been more popular as a romantic hero in mainland Europe than in his native land. But literary luminaries have now waxed fierce in declaring that his memory and memorabilia are more important than coal.

When Byron died of unromantic rheumatic fever at Missolonghi, the Greeks

wished to bury him in Athens. But only his heart stayed in Greece. His body was returned to England. When he was refused burial in Westminster Abbey, he was buried in the family vault near Newstead Abbey. In as much as Byron ever felt nostalgia for home, it was centred on Newstead. There the first powerful woman in his life, his mother, was buried; and also his dog Boatswain, for whom he composed one of the few romantic rather than sentimental canine epitaphs. Newstead represented home and status for the fiery little boy scarred by his clubfoot, genteel poverty and Scottish Calvinism. So it is worth preserving for posterity's sake.

But it would be wrong to confuse Byron himself with the Byronic hero, whose image he left for posterity. In his personal life, Byron was practical and businesslike, fully engaged in the social and political affairs of the world. He would have been unselfish in the inheritance he left to Byron's father, "Mad Jack". Young George might have hoped that subsidence caused by the miners would swallow up the jungles of rhododendrons planted to replace his lost timber. He would be most unromantically interested in the size of that bond.

Northern Ireland outlook worsens

From Dr Brian Houston

Sir, Last year when the RUC acquiesced to the Orange march down the Garvaghy Road we were told that it was because the police (and Government) could not contain the potential loyalist violence. One year on and the same decision is taken for the same reason (reports and leading article, July 7).

Dr Mo Mowlam, the Secretary of State, chastises both sides, saying one is as bad as the other, and expects the peace talks to proceed to substantive issues. But what is there to talk about? The Unionists can negotiate in the knowledge that, if they do not get what they want, the threat of violence and widespread disruption will be sufficient to derail any peace train.

The message from Drumcree is loud and clear. New Labour are the same as old Labour. As in 1974, during the Ulster Workers Council strike against the Sunningdale Agreement, they have shown themselves unwilling to stand up to the loyalist veto on change. Until the Government grasps this, the outlook will remain bleak.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN HOUSTON,
27 Primrose Drive,
Hardley Winney, Hook, Hampshire.
brian@houston.force9.net
July 7.

From Mr Brendan Turley

Sir, One result of last year's disorder at Drumcree was an increase in electoral support for Sinn Féin.

With the peace process clearly on its knees it is surely incumbent on all those parties in Northern Ireland sincerely interested in finding a peaceful solution to ensure that they are not seen to be involved in actions which are triumphalist in nature and undermine those seeking a democratic accommodation of all sides.

By the RUC once again appearing to have given in to loyalist threats of violence it is clear that while David Trimble and the Unionist Party may see Sunday's events as some sort of victory, it can only in the long term give strength to their most violent opponents.

Yours faithfully,
BRENDAN TURLEY,
18 Elmhouse Road, SW17,
July 7.

From Mr T. O. Malone

Sir, The fact that conduct likely to provoke a breach of the peace has been repeated annually is not a defence. It is an aggravation. Nor is lack of intention to breach the peace a defence. So, even if the Ku Klux Klan were able to convince the authorities that it intended to march in regalia through Brixton, but only as a short cut to its annual picnic, should not the provocateurs of such a likely breach of the peace be restrained or arrested, not those whose peace will be breached?

Yours faithfully,
T. O. MALONE,
11 Rosebank, Holyport Road, SW6,
July 7.

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm,
RN (ret)

Sir, A Belfast-born Catholic, I dreamed last night that as the bowler hats and banners in Drumcree went booming down Garvaghy Road into Portadown, the residents there streamed cheering from their houses to wave and to throw flowers at the feet of the marchers. There were banners above the road reading "Welcome" and "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive..." and there was much smiling and laughter. There were even trays of the black stuff for any of the marchers who might be feeling thirsty.

And in my dream the marchers felt rather foolish and began to wonder why they had bothered to come in the first place; but of course it was all a dream.

Yours faithfully,
PETER KIMM,
69 New Brighton Road,
Emsworth, Hampshire,
July 7.

Future of the RAF

From Mr Neil Dabson

Sir, Keith Mans's citing of the loss of HMS *Glorious* (letter, July 4) shows his argument to be specious. The failure of Royal Navy senior officers early in World War II to appreciate the role of air power in sea warfare can be traced directly back to April 1913, when the Royal Air Force was founded.

On that day the Royal Flying Corps and the Royal Naval Air Service were amalgamated into the RAF. From then until the formation of the Fleet Air Arm in the mid-Thirties, naval aviation was a part of the RAF. This left the Navy under-provided with air support and under-appreciative of the support she had.

Excepting strategic bombing and reconnaissance and defence against strategic bombing and reconnaissance, no independent role has been found for air power. A defence policy that does not integrate air and surface forces is fundamentally flawed, as the sinking of HMS *Glorious* showed.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL DATSON,
Glebe Farm, Spelsbury, Oxford,
July 4.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Repercussions of Brown's Budget

From Mr David G. Kleeman

Sir, The Welfare to Work proposals announced by the Chancellor (Budget reports, July 3, letters, July 4) are likely to receive widespread welcome as the Government endeavours to reduce youth unemployment.

Wealth and jobs for the longer term are largely created by our manufacturers. But the continuing appreciation of sterling will make our goods harder to sell abroad unless costs in the UK are reduced yet further. Yesterday, when the stock market prices soared following the Chancellor's speech, the biggest rises were seen amongst the banks, the utilities and property companies' reports, July 4 — none of which is renowned for job creation. The biggest falls were suffered by our major manufacturers, which face worldwide competition for their merchandise.

How sad it may be to find taxpayers' money spent in the months ahead, with the very best of intentions, in efforts to increase employment — but at a time when our major manufacturers may be seeking to shed labour in the UK or investing abroad in lower-cost centres so as to make their products at more competitive prices.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID G. KLEEMAN,
4th Floor,
74 Chancery Lane, WC2,
July 4.

From the Principal of the Sheffield College

Sir, Gordon Brown's threat to withdraw benefits from those who do not participate in the Welfare to Work scheme is too close for comfort to exhortations to the workshy to "get on their bikes".

While the ultimate sanction must be there, initially at least, it should be kept in the background and ways found to persuade and encourage. Fear or greed are not the best motivators on which to base training programmes, nor will they engender the right attitude to secure from employers commitment to long-term jobs.

Yours sincerely,
KEN RUDDIMAN,
Principal,
The Sheffield College,
PO Box 343, Sheffield S2 2YY,
July 3.

From Mr Charles Wentzel

Sir, Please could the Chancellor now relax the restrictions on the proportion of earnings that can be contributed into personal pensions. If he does

Runaways at risk

From the Chief Executive of The Children's Society

Sir, If anyone needed yet another reminder of the extreme vulnerability of young people caught up in prostitution, your report today on the jailing of the two men who murdered 16-year-old Lucy Burchell in Birmingham provided it.

Lucy is not the first young person to be murdered while working on the streets. Until prostitution is treated as a child-protection issue for people under 18, and the Home Office provides the police with the resources and the encouragement necessary to target the paedophiles and pimps who ruthlessly exploit these young people, we can expect the number to rise. Of course these murders are rare; but for every death there are countless rapes, beatings-up, abductions and other forms of violence because these young people are not adequately protected.

As well as changes in the law, we also need services to protect young

not, many of us will not be able to afford to retire at a sensible age. We will now seek to work on into our dotage obstructing the employment paths of those youngsters he quite rightly wants to help.

Yours faithfully,
C. A. WENTZEL,
81 Balham Park Road, SW12,
July 4.

From Mr R. P. Burdett

Sir, Who will make up the Budget-created pension shortfall of those with retirement annuities or personal pension plans? No one.

My pension fund will now be taxed twice, once when dividends are paid in and again when the pension is paid out. The returns on money invested in an endowment assurance, on the Stock Exchange or put on deposit, are taxed only once. They are not taxed again when the nest egg is realised.

Wise people will now avoid pension policies 1, 62 and just retired, am

stuck, because my pension fund has to be paid out to me as earned income. Justice demands that, as the Budget proposals become law, annuities paid from pension funds should be treated as part income and part repayment of capital, which is what they are.

Yours faithfully,
N. M. PARKER,
R. P. BURDETT,
Dyer Burdett & Co (solicitors),
64 West Street, Havant, Hampshire,
July 4.

From Dr M. Q. Dalvi

Sir, A number of commentators have lamented the abolition of dividend tax relief for pension funds. No doubt, this is going to hit many pension schemes, which have benefited from this provision at the expense of the taxpayers all these years.

To my mind, Mr Brown has just done a right thing by removing one of the tax distortions existing in the British economy. The companies will, of course, have to find extra money to maintain the pension payouts to their employees or alternatively reduce the amount of their pension benefits.

Those who believe in the logic of market economics should have no complaint against this measure, at least in principle.

Yours sincerely,
M. Q. DALVI,
69 Preston Road,
Wembley, Middlesex,
July 4.

Business letters, page 29

runaways who, because they are so vulnerable, are the most likely to get caught up in prostitution. Our research shows that one in seven young runaways is forced to sell sex to survive.

The Children's Society provides three of the four refuges in this country. But the statutory services have shown little interest in developing such facilities, leaving thousands of young children at the mercy of predatory adults.

It is time the Government funded a range of services across the country to ensure that children most at risk have an escape route from destitution, exploitation and violence, and also passed laws to protect young people from the violent men that Lucy, in her short life, fell victim to.

Yours etc,
IAN SPARKS,
Chief Executive,
The Children's Society,
Edward Rudolf House,
Margery Street, WC1,
July 2.

"Violent" Shakespeare

From Ms Janet Burgess

Sir, Derek Gate (letter, June 27) asks why the British Board of Film Classification gave Baz Luhrmann's film, *William Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet*, which he describes as "highly erotic and violent", a 12 certificate.

He speculates that it was "because it is 'culture' and therefore unlikely to be seen by those who might make a fuss". This is nonsense.

The film has been a commercial success and has provided teachers up and down the land with an invaluable resource for the teaching of the original text.

This innovative treatment of a classic text was assessed, as are all titles, with due reference to its appeal and its likely audience.

It hardly seems the act of irresponsible elitism that Mr Gate implies to make available to a younger teenage audience an entertaining film which may encourage consideration of such sensitive and complex issues as romantic love, parental "abuse", arranged marriage or the destructive nature of partisan hatred and cyclical violence and revenge.

The BBFC attempts to classify material in an age-appropriate way. The utmost care is taken to warn parents and young people of material which may be inappropriate or potentially distressing.

Yours faithfully,
JANET BURGESS
(Film and Video Examiner),
British Board of Film Classification,
3 Soho Square, W1,
July 2.

Plea for reversal of decision on RGO

From the Deputy Director of the Royal Greenwich Observatory

Sir, The last Government separated its funding of astronomy and particle physics from the rest of science and engineering to create an additional research council (the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council). This council employs approximately 100 administrators at its headquarters.

The present Government has just agreed to close the Royal Greenwich Observatory in Cambridge (reports, July 3) on the advice of this research council with the likely loss of 100 jobs. Most of these losses will be scientists and engineers, but the council bureaucrats will remain. The Labour Government has thus completed an exercise which appears to replace front-line workers with layers of administration.

This spectacular own goal surely bodes ill for a worthwhile reform of the National Health Service or any other public body.

Yours faithfully,
N. M. PARKER,
Deputy Director,
Royal Greenwich Observatory,
Madingley Road, Cambridge,
July 7.

From Dr Patrick Moore

Sir, The decision to close the Royal Greenwich Observatory is disastrous, and it is to be hoped that last-minute attempts can be made to reverse the decision.

If the RGO is destroyed, Britain will lose something which can never be restored. One of the best scientific teams in the world will be broken up (to say nothing of other considerations, such as the library); major scientists will be lost to us, and the effects will be profound. The money saved could be matched by a few of the strange "modern art" exhibitions which are so generously funded, to say nothing of the monstrosity planned for Greenwich itself.

To abandon the RGO would be an act of cultural as well as scientific vandalism.

Yours faithfully,
PATRICK MOORE,
Farthinges,
West Street, Selsey, Sussex,
July 6.

BBC World Service

From Mr Frank H. Brown

Sir, Ms Amina Jilani (letter, July 1) is quite right about Third World countries relying on the World Service for news. In 1978 in Guyana we heard about the Jonestown mass suicides from the BBC before anything was reported in the local media.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK H. BROWN
(Deputy British High Commissioner,
Georgetown, 1978-80),
143 Mitchley Avenue,
Sanderstead, Surrey,
July 1.

Days to remember

From Mr Bruce Jackson

Sir, I can sympathise with Mr Eric D. Bellenie (letter, July 3) when he writes about "celebratory" days. They have usually been and gone before I realise what has happened.

It was with keen interest, therefore, that I spotted in my post the other day a letter giving me notice (warning?) of National Condom Week (August 4-10). Any initial enthusiasm which might have been aroused was somewhat dampened by a request from the sponsors for me to write (form provided) with a description of any activities I might have planned. This can then be handed out "to the media and the public in July".

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE JACKSON
(Principal pharmacist),
York District Hospital,
Wigington Road, York,
July 4.

Virtual pets

From Mrs Henrietta Howard

Sir, My husband received a reversed-charges telephone call from our 11-year-old daughter on Friday, to request him to "feed" her Tamagotchi electronic "baby" (Mrs Susan Barnard's letter, July 7) which she had forgotten to take to school.

Not only are we paying for her telephone "rescue" call, but we are also doing the babysitting. Surely this is taking parental responsibilities to new heights.

Yours faithfully,
HENRIETTA HOWARD,
Daglingworth House,
Nr Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
July 7.

From Dr Alan M. Calver

Sir, Susan Barnard should not attempt to babysit her son's Tamagotchi.

These devices require particular care and treatment which can only be administered by the local authority's refuse-disposal department.

Yours sincerely,
ALAN CALVER,
35 Badgers,
Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire,
July 7.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.
e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

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BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

TUESDAY JULY 8 1997

5th

Output fall eases rate rise fears

Sterling slips back as production figures drop sharply

By ALASDAIR MURRAY
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CITY fears that the Bank of England is poised to make a half-point rate rise on Thursday eased yesterday after new data showed manufacturing output collapsed in May.

The unexpectedly weak production figures sent the pound, which hit a six-year high against the mark, sliding on the foreign exchanges as dealers hurriedly downgraded rate rise expectations.

The pound closed down more than two pence at DM2.9395, while sterling's trade-weighted index fell 0.7 to 103.3. The FTSE 100 recovered

from early falls to finish down 2.1 points at 4,810.7, helped by a strong early showing on Wall Street.

But the City believes that the Bank of England will still raise rates by a quarter point on Thursday after separate data showed the service sector continuing to boom.

John O'Sullivan, UK economist at NatWest Markets, predicted that the Bank's monetary policy committee would opt to increase rates from the current level of 6.5 per cent to dampen consumer spending.

He said: "It remains likely that the manufacturing sector will be sacrificed on the altar of consumer buoyancy."

But economists believe that base rate rises are now likely to peak at less drastic levels than the forecasts of 8 per cent or more that many had forecast after the Budget last week.

Simon Briscoe, director of research at Nikko Europe, said he expected the Bank to raise rates to 7 per cent by the end of this year, but he added that the Bank wanted to see manufacturing "squeezed, not

murdered". Manufacturing output declined by 1.1 per cent in May, the largest monthly fall for more than four years, leaving the annual rate of growth at just 1 per cent compared with 2.7 per cent in April.

Overall industrial production also declined 0.9 per cent, causing the annual rate of growth to slump from a rise of 2.2 per cent in April to show a fall of 0.2 per cent in May.

All areas of manufacturing suffered a decline in output, except for the food, drink and

tobacco sector, but hardest hit was engineering, which showed a monthly fall of 2.3 per cent as car production slumped.

Economists said that the weak data pointed to the strong pound beginning to hurt the manufacturing industries. It is not immediately clear if manufacturers are losing custom because they have become uncompetitive abroad, or are being hit by cheap imports.

The Office for National Statistics said its data showed

that the proportion of manufacturing exports had not declined dramatically in May. Analysts will also be eagerly awaiting data on whether companies opted to make large stock reductions.

Michael Saunders, UK economist at Salomon Brothers, predicted that the poor manufacturing data would also have a softening impact on the second-quarter GDP figures due to be published later this month. He forecast that GDP will record a quarterly rise of 0.7 or 0.8 per cent,

compared with a rise of 0.9 per cent in the first quarter. Mr Saunders added that manufacturing output would remain sluggish in 1997 as the full effect of the high pound and base rate rises came through.

In contrast, the latest CBI/Comptons & Lybrand Financial Services Survey, which was also published yesterday, pointed to a strong rise in both employment and profitability within the sector. Overall levels of business also continued to rise, although below the peak levels recorded in the last quarter of last year. But business confidence rose at its slowest rate for nearly 18 months.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES		
FTSE 100	4810.7	(-2.1)
Yield	3.29%	
FTSE All Share	2,267.42	(-1.3)
NASDAQ	1,970.17	(-26.8)
New York	7,921.37	(-25.5)
Dow Jones	919.74	(-2.82)
S&P Composite		
US RATE		
Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(unch)
Long Bond	100 1/2%	(-1)
Yield	6.56%	(-1)
LONDON MONEY		
3-month interest	8 1/4%	(7%)
Life long gilt	114 1/4	(114 1/4)
Future (Sep)		
STERLING		
New York	1.6873	(unch)
London	1.6846	(1.6877)
S	2.8953	(2.9200)
FF	9.9103	(9.9215)
SP	2.4533	(2.4750)
Yen	119.30	(119.70)
C index	103.3	(104.0)
DOLLAR		
London	1.7496	(unch)
FF	6.8845	(-)
SP	1.4591	(-)
Yen	112.48	(112.48)
S index	101.8	(102.4)
Tokyo close	118.27	
NORTH SEA OIL		
Brant 15-day (Sep)	818.10	(818.20)
GOLD		
London close	8219.86	(8224.25)
* denotes midday trading price		

Woolwich holds out prospect of further payouts

By CAROLINE MERRILL

MEMBERS of the Woolwich made £2,194 on average when the former building society floated yesterday.

Woolwich shares initially soared to 368p, but dropped back, closing at 334p. A total of 26.1 million shares changed hands. Even at the low price, the minimum windfall of 480 shares is worth £1,503, and the average windfall of 657 shares is worth £2,194.

The opening price was almost double the 175p estimated in the transfer document sent to members earlier this year, and higher than even the most optimistic City predictions.

John Stevens, Woolwich chief executive, held out the prospect of further payouts to shareholders through a distribution of excess capital next year. He said: "We expect to be able to put some proposals on the issue to shareholders early next year. We are taking great care in assessing ways of returning cash to shareholders." He did not rule out the possibility of takeovers or mergers.

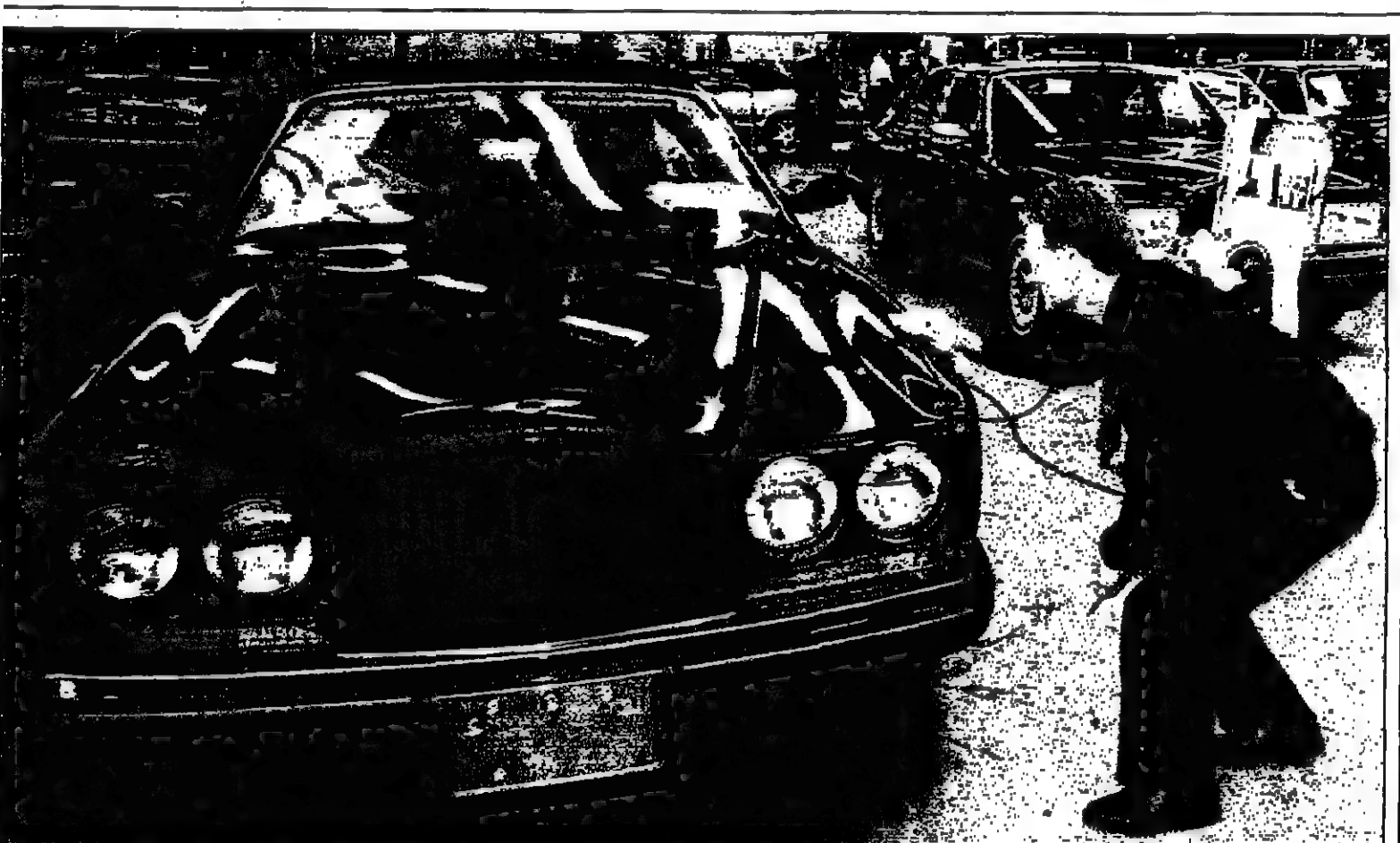
The Woolwich is the fourth financial institution to float on the stock market, after the Alliance & Leicester, Halifax and Norwich Union. The Northern Rock will float later this year.

Today's latest windfall bonanza is likely to put further pressure on the Bank of England to raise interest rates this week when its monetary policy committee meets on Wednesday and Thursday.

The Woolwich float also prompted a call from the Consumers' Association for the Government to calm the windfall frenzy by imposing a ban on any more building society conversions for at least 12 months.

A total of 1.6 billion free shares have been handed out by the Woolwich, which was founded 150 years ago. Just under a quarter of all the shares are being sold immediately.

Carpetbaggers' luck, page 29



UK sales of Rolls-Royce, mainly to successful businessmen, were more than double those in the US, traditionally the company's biggest market

UK accelerates Rolls-Royce sales

By JON ASHWORTH

FAT CAT business leaders sent British sales of Rolls-Royces and Bentleys climbing 36 per cent in the first half of the year — the highest level since recession sent the luxury marque skidding into the ditch.

The UK led the way in the six months to June, with 549 cars sold, up from 404 last year. Sales were more than double those in America, traditionally the biggest market, and ten

times ahead of Japan, where the luxury goods sector continues to suffer.

Rolls-Royce Motor Cars, based in Crewe, Cheshire, says most new UK buyers are successful businessmen, rather than lottery winners and pop stars. Sales remained strong in the run-up to the general election, suggesting the underlying strength of the UK consumer boom. Prices range from £110,000 for the Bentley Brooklands — one of the most popular models — to

£230,000 or more for the top-of-the-range Bentley Continental T and Bentley Azure.

Worldwide sales peaked at 3,333 cars in 1990, before plunging to a low of 1,360 in 1993. Rolls-Royce Motor Cars took tough remedial action, and was able to turn a profit, even with sales at reduced levels. Sales have climbed steadily since then. The company, owned by Vickers, is restructuring its manufacturing process at a cost of £40 million. Total retail sales climbed 13

per cent to 1,029 cars in the first half. Some 225 cars were sold in America, a 7 per cent rise. Stronger sales there are anticipated towards the end of the year.

Only 52 Rolls-Royces or Bentleys were sold in Japan, a fall of 15 per cent. The same is true of Germany, where BMW sales are down 27 per cent (as at end May), and Porsche sales have slipped 14 per cent. Bright spots include Hong Kong, where Rolls-Royce had matched its entire 1996 sales by the end of May.

Lawyer in Regan's CWS bid resigns

By JASON NISSE AND SARAH CUNNINGHAM

THE City lawyer who led the team advising Andrew Regan on his aborted £1.2 billion bid for the Co-operative Wholesale Society has resigned.

Nigel Campion-Smith, 42, who has been a corporate and commercial law partner of Travers Smith Braithwaite for 15 years, resigned yesterday, more than two months after the solicitors gave an unreserved apology to CWS for using confidential CWS documents to help Mr Regan's Galileo company to put together its bid.

Alan Keal, Travers' senior partner, said yesterday: "Nigel felt responsible for the embarrassment which the firm suffered and he made clear his wish to do everything possible to reduce the embarrassment." The firm has been heavily criticised for its role in the bid and it is understood that the Law Society has been taking a keen interest in the matter.

Travers, along with Hambros, Galileo's merchant bankers, paid CWS more than £1 million to settle a civil action over the use of documents passed to Mr Regan by Allan Green, the former head of CWS's retail operations.

Hambros has asked Norton Rose, another City lawyer, to investigate the bank's role. Peter Large, the director at Hambros, has been relieved of his duties while the probe continues.

EMU 'will cut prices — and profits'

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

MONETARY Union will lead to lower retail prices across Europe and hit corporate profitability, a report forecasts today. KPMG, the accountant and consultant, says a single currency will improve price transparency and could drive prices down to the lowest level across the single market.

Michael Lindechild, a partner at KPMG Management Consulting, says: "High cost producers should be prepared to see their margins cut substantially with a resulting reduction in profitability." Businesses will also need to plan to deal with the impact of a change in "price points". These are deliberately used at levels such as £3.99, to persuade the customer to mark down the actual price in his mind. Consumers should also benefit from an end to retail price maintenance.

Tomkins plans buyback

By PAUL DURMAN

TOMKINS, the manufacturing conglomerate, has bowed to City pressure and is to use its £185 million cash pile to buy back up to £100 million of its shares within three months.

Greg Hutchings, chairman, has previously opposed buybacks, believing that strong cash balances enable Tomkins to move quickly on acquisitions.

Mr Hutchings said yesterday the policy had "evolved" because of the bull market, which is making businesses expensive to buy. "We can't justify holding cash for that large unrelated acquisition

that we would like to have done," he said.

Investors regard debt finance as less expensive than equity, and are reluctant to see companies accumulate cash. With Tomkins looking at £300 million of acquisitions, it is set to take on borrowing of up to 20 per cent of its equity.

Tomkins also intends to focus on its larger businesses, led by Gates, which makes power transmission belts and hoses for the motor industry, and Ranks Hovis McDougall, its food business. It plans to sell smaller and underper-

forming businesses, and has made a £39.5 million provision for the goodwill write-off on disposals.

Tomkins's pre-tax profits rose a third to £431.8 million for the year to May 3, reflecting a first contribution of £67.9 million from Gates. Group sales rose from £3.6 billion to £4.6 billion. Fully diluted earnings per share rose 10 per cent to 20.6p. A final dividend of 8.39p will lift the total payout 15.1 per cent to 11.45p.

Commentary, page 27
Tempus, page 28



Hutchings: City pressure

Gold price at 12-year low

By CARL MORTISHED

THE gold price fell to its lowest level for 12 years yesterday amid fears of further action by central banks after the news that the Australian Reserve Bank had sold two thirds of its gold reserves.

Gold finished in London at \$315 an ounce, down from \$326 on Friday, causing a sharp drop in gold mining shares and predictions of failures in the mining sector. Randgold, the South African mining group yesterday announced the closure of Benoni Gold Mining and said it was reviewing the terms of the

merger of three mines due to the market conditions.

The gold price is at critical levels for South Africa's mining industry which suffers higher operating costs due to the depths of its mines. Average cash costs per ounce in South Africa are \$293. After including debt and overheads, total costs in South Africa are \$334 per ounce and £356 in Australia.

Andy Smith, mining analyst at UBS Securities, the broker, said the Australian central bank sales were "the straw that broke the camel's

back". Both the Belgian and Dutch central banks have sold gold and a recent US Fed discussion paper turned negative on the metal but few expected Australia, a big producer, to turn against it.

The flight from gold has occurred as central banks reconsider it as a store of value against government securities, such as US Treasury bills. Gold has been losing value steadily and the yield on gold loans is lower than the rate of general price inflation.

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Pru takeover costs 100 ScotAm jobs

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE close-knit financial services community in Scotland faces more job losses after Prudential said it was relocating Scottish Amicable's fund management arm to London. About 100 of the Glasgow division's 125 staff will be made redundant while 17 staff are moving to Britannia Investment Managers (BIM), which is buying Scottish Amicable's £800 million worth of institutional funds. These staff include Douglas Ferrans, chief executive of Scottish Amicable Investment Management (Saim), who will become BIM's marketing director. Scotland has been particularly badly hit by job losses in the life and general insurance industry. Last year, Scottish Widows announced it was cutting 800 jobs from its Edinburgh headquarters. Prudential officially becomes the owner of Scottish Amicable, which is based in Stirling, in September, after a three-way bid battle earlier

this year for the Scottish mutual. The formal transfer of the management of Scottish Amicable's £15 billion investments to Prudential Portfolio Managers (PPM) is due to take effect on September 30.

The transfer was announced by Prudential, which said it was "discussing work opportunities in London" with some staff. Roy Nicolson, Scottish Amicable's managing director, said: "Prudential have got offices in Scotland and it may be that some of our people would want to work there."

The jobs of those being made redundant are guaranteed to the year end. Prudential said that after a review of Scottish Amicable's investment business it had decided to manage policyholders' funds within PPM. Mr Nicolson said: "I regret Scottish Amicable's fund management operation could not be retained in Glasgow. However, it was not economic to do so and not in policyholders' interests."



James Millar's WEW yesterday forecast that its tills will ring up a loss of at least £4 million

WEW issues third warning

WEW, the struggling discount clothing retailer, yesterday put a "For Sale" sign on the business as it issued its third profit warning this year (Sarah Cunningham writes). The Glasgow-based company predicted a loss of at least £4 million for the year to the end of this month. This is double the level forecast in its last warning, in late May. WEW also revealed plans to close eight stores by the end of

August. This will lead to a £2.8 million provision on top of the pre-tax loss. WEW has asked Coopers & Lybrand Corporate Finance to assess options for the business. The company said it is considering seeking offers for it. The loss of more than £4 million for the financial year to July 31 is subject to finalisation of year-end stock provisions. The company will be able to set net profits of just

£400,000 from property disposals against the loss. It is unclear what WEW intends for its project to turn its loss-making What Everyone Wants stores into a more successful format. The Store, devised by James Millar, chairman, and Richard Boland, chief executive, who took over at the former Amber Day Holdings in 1995. The shares, 29½p last November, slid 21½p to 7p.

FirstBus agrees £7.2m bid

BY FRASER NELSON

FIRSTBUS, Britain's largest bus operator, has agreed a £7.2 million bid for the Southampton Citybus service in a deal set to yield a £17,000 windfall for the drivers, mechanics and administration staff who supported the buyout.

Citybus, bought by its employees for £400,000 four years ago, will become FirstBus' 28th subsidiary. Its three-man buyout team were restricted to the same £1,200 investment cap and will be sharing the 14-fold return.

Ian Phillips, managing director, said neither the management or the employees imagined selling out in such a short time.

The FirstBus offer has still to be approved by the employees, who own more than 99 per cent of the company. It goes through FirstBus will lift its market share to 21 per cent, with Cowie coming second at 18 per cent and Stagecoach a close third with 17½ per cent.

Citybus last returned profits of £700,000 on sales of £11.7 million. FirstBus is also offering a £1.6 million special dividend and has agreed to take on £3.9 million of debt, making the total £11.1 million.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Judge to take a second look at pensions case

A HIGH COURT judge who ruled last month that National Power acted lawfully in taking about £250 million from its pension fund surplus has agreed to hear a submission from pensioners' lawyers that he made an error in his judgment. Mr Justice Robert Walker had ruled that the use of a proportion of pension fund surpluses to help finance redundancies and early retirements in the privatised power companies was legal.

The industry had faced repaying more than £1 billion if National Power lost. However, the pensioners argue that there was a fundamental flaw in the decision. Their new claim could cost National Power more than £100 million.

Schroders leads deals

BRITISH merchant banks led the way in a record six months to June for mergers and acquisitions, according to *Acquisitions Monthly*, the magazine. Deals reached a record £22.3 billion, beating the previous record of £21 billion in the first half of 1996. Schroders, the independent bank, led the way, advising on 17 transactions worth £5.81 billion, pushing ING Barings, last year's leader, into second place. US banks took six out of the top 20 places.

Vodafone to cut staff

VODAFONE, the mobile phone company that is losing market share to its smaller rivals, yesterday unveiled a corporate overhaul that will eliminate 300 jobs by the end of next year. Vodafone's six service providers will be reorganised into three businesses. The changes are expected to cost the company about £20 million this year but should lead to a £10 million improvement next year and £35 million a year later. Commentary, page 27.

KLM buys Air UK

KLM, the Dutch airline group, has taken full control of Air UK, the Stansted airline. KLM has bought the 55 per cent of Air UK that it did not already own from British Air Transport Holdings for an undisclosed sum. The deal requires European Commission approval. Air UK will remain an independent airline, with no changes to its board of directors. Routes are expected to remain unchanged. Air UK operates flights to Amsterdam from 14 British airports.

Law firms chase merger

THREE law firms are fighting to link up with Edge & Ellison, a Birmingham practice. Pleasant Curtis, also based in Birmingham, has been holding discussions with Edge & Ellison. At the same time, Nigel Knowles, managing partner of Dibb Lupton Alsop, currently ranked seventh, is seeking discussions with Digby Jones, senior partner of Edge & Ellison. Hammond Suddards, the Leeds firm, is also said to be in the running.

Bos grows in Wales

BOS Automotive Products, the German-owned car parts manufacturer, is to carry out a £10 million expansion of its Wrexham plant, creating almost 100 jobs. The automotive industry in Wales already employs more than 15,000 people in 62 plants. More than half of those factories are overseas owned. Rex Davies, the Welsh Secretary, said competition for inward investment is becoming much stronger. Bos is one of 35 German companies with sites in Wales.

Cleveland acquisition

CLEVELAND TRUST, the property company, has acquired the outstanding 25 per cent of Port of Boston (1992) from John Sutcliffe & Sons, a private company controlled by James Sutcliffe, a director of Port of Boston. In return for 400,000 shares in Cleveland, Cleveland was yesterday unchanged at 107½p a share. Mr Sutcliffe has been invited to join the board of Cleveland. He has been a director of Port of Boston since 1990, when he led a management buyout.

AG Barr profits surge

SHARES in AG Barr, the Im-Bru and Tizer soft drinks maker, firmed 23p higher to 413p yesterday as the company unveiled a sharp uplift in interim pre-tax profits from £1.02 million to £3.78 million. However, current trading was only marginally ahead year-on-year. The interim dividend, payable on 8 August, is doubled to 4.0p reflecting the rise in earnings per share (from 3.82p to 13.30p) and the decision to move to a January year-end.

Colloids chief's payoff

BRIAN FISHER, former operations director of Allied Colloids, received a £250,000 golden goodbye from the chemicals group after agreeing to retire early, at 57. After cashing in share options, he took home a total of £442,000 for working the first six months of the year to March 31, against a 1995-96 pay package of £138,000. Gordon Senior, who retired as finance director, had £13,000 loss-office compensation and total pay of £184,000 for seven months' work.

Fake letters cheat banks out of £1.9m

BY ADAM JONES

SEVERAL high street banks have been swindled out of £1.9 million by a gang who forged company account transfer documents.

Only a recurring spelling mistake, the writing of "Yours sincerely" in the fake authorisation letters, alerted police to the scale of the fraud.

The fraudsters targeted banks across the country, transferring cash between accounts using the Clearing House Automated Payment System. They posed as customers to get a company's bank details, and then forged directors' signatures and letterheads from Companies House information. The approach worked 33 times in 131 attempts between December 1995 and May 1996.

The targeted clearing banks, including Lloyds, NatWest and Barclays, have been able to recover only about £20,000, the Serious Fraud Office said yesterday.

Five Birmingham men have admitted conspiracy and will be sentenced later this month. Another eight people are due to be sentenced for deception.

EXCHANGE RATES

	Bank	Bank
	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.37	2.19
Austria Sch	21.03	18.97
Belgium Fr	53.72	55.76
Canada \$	2.28	2.29
Cyprus Cyp	0.809	0.839
Denmark Kr	11.76	10.87
Finland Mk	8.94	8.58
France Fr	10.36	9.58
Germany Dr	3.10	2.85
Greece Dr	498	449
Hong Kong \$	13.81	12.81
Ireland Pt	127	107
Israel Shk	1.18	1.07
Italy Lire	6.28	5.63
Japan Yen	204.03	201
Malta	0.683	0.624
Netherlands Gld	3.66	3.18
New Zealand \$	2.41	2.11
Norway Kr	12.87	11.83
Portugal Esc	306.5	283
S Africa Rd	8.35	7.29
Spain Ptas	200.20	240.50
Sweden Kr	13.77	12.57
Switzerland Fr	2.60	2.35
Turkey Lira	262325	242427
USA \$	1.78	1.64

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BUSINESS JUST GOT AN EDGE.



Bankers put gold out of fashion



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

Is nothing sacred? Over the past two years, even pure gold has been about as good an investment as one of Gerald Rafter's notorious carrying equivalents of a Marks & Spencer prawn sandwich. Yesterday, the noble metal dropped to its lowest level in real terms since America stopped converting dollars into gold at \$35 an ounce a generation ago and took the lid off the price.

Economic lemmings, growth-mongers and monetary atheists will be delighted. Their long campaign to dethrone the traditional and most reliable store of value, the world has ever known is at last beginning to take off. In the cloistered and comfortable culture of western central banking, gold has become as politically incorrect as dwarf-throwing or cigarettes.

This trend has now become self-sustaining. The latest price fall stemmed from Australia's central bank revealing that it had sold 167 tonnes of its 247 tonnes of gold reserves over the past six months. You might think that the market's ability to absorb about £1.4 billion of official sales over a relatively short period was a sign of strength.

Depressed traders merely reasoned that if Australia, a serious gold producer, could cast aside the metal's monetary charms, more were sure to follow. The Netherlands has already done so. Switzerland has given its central bank greater freedom of

action over the fifth-largest cache of gold in the world.

If the German Government is to realise Bundesbank gold profits, albeit fooling no one that this satisfies Maastricht tests, the end may be nigh. Below about \$300 an ounce, which has been a floor for gold in the ups and downs of the past 17 years, the price would be in unknown territory.

No matter that the Germans would have had no profits to squabble about if the Bundesbank had invested the same original amounts in pounds. Over likely French protests, the euro would probably be a gold-free currency. It would be less formally solid than the Estonian kroon, which is backed by the Baltic state's impressive reserves of standing timber.

In the rich world, gold is losing its monetary role because central bankers believe they have cracked inflation. Paper money can then earn interest, gold does not. In 1979-80, when world inflation was rampant and scarcely any currency could be trusted, speculators temporarily drove gold to nearly \$700 an ounce. That bubble cost gold its reputation for stability.

Whatever damage the central bankers inflict, gold will retain

its status as a portable store of value throughout the politically and economically unstable parts of the world. Gold is beautiful as well as precious. Private jewellery demand can only accelerate with rising incomes per head in South Asia and the Orient. But turning gold round could take time. Central banks still have a lot. Only large-scale closures of marginal goldmines, especially in suffering South Africa, may turn the price tide.

High noon for ballooning shares

Greg Hutchings believes that virtually everything worth having in the stock market is overvalued — except, of course, for a certain industrial group that languishes beneath the unprepossessing name of Tomkins.

Hutchings is no ordinary investor but it is hard to quibble

with his conclusion. Share prices were looking as inflated as a hot air balloon before the Budget but, even allowing for yesterday's minor adjustment, the reaction to Gordon Brown's efforts has been to send the Footsie almost 60 points higher. The helium supply cannot last. The only question is when the participants in this version of the balloon game will start hurling stock out of the basket.

The decision to do away with the dividend tax credit should alone have been enough to take a slice off share prices since it instantly cuts the value of equities knocking 20 per cent off the yield to a major customer, in this case the pension funds, might normally be expected to bring down the price fairly dramatically.

Yesterday brought more evidence of why investors should be wary, with figures showing growth in manufacturing output skidding to a halt. Even allowing

for the adjustments that these statistics generally undergo, the gloomy tenor of their message will remain. It is that the boom in the economy is more of a fragile boomlet, certainly not enough to logically power a stock market to these heady levels.

The power of the pound is not the villain behind the manufacturing slowdown, for the domestic market has suffered in line with exports. The imminent rise in interest rates, albeit now more likely to be just a quarter point instead of a half, will hardly enhance the outlook for industry.

While much of the recent excitement in the market has been more about betting on the banks than seriously backing corporate Britain, strip out the takeover hopes and many financial stocks look as overpriced as their manufacturing clients.

gravity-defying performance come to an end? It cannot be long, can it, before reality dawns and prices adjust to a more sensible reflection of underlying values? That was what Tony Dye thought when he took his PDFM funds out of the market last year. His subsequent discomfort has hardly encouraged his competitors to follow his line.

What a difference a brand makes

The mobile phone companies have turned to the fashion world for a lesson in basic business. The most successful fashion houses — Versace, Gucci and Armani, among them — invest extraordinary amounts of money into their image. Branding is important because it helps to set them apart in an industry that sells broadly similar products. In practical terms, it allows them to promote themselves without the need to reduce prices.

The Hong Kong owners of the Rabbit, the mobile-phone company that disappeared down a hole in the early 1990s, decided to make branding the centrepiece of their return to the market with

Orange. In the three years since it began trading, Orange has developed a powerful brand, one that has captured the imagination of what was once called the Yuppier market. Its digital service is no better or worse than its rivals', but the name is more familiar than Celine and Vodafone, which have no image to speak of. Orange is so pleased with its brand that it plans to export it to Continental Europe. In the UK, Orange has captured a phenomenal 40 per cent of all new digital connections in a market whose growth is slowing.

Vodafone is now getting into the game. All of its businesses, including 300 high street retail outlets, will trade under the Vodafone name and more than £35 million has been set aside for advertising and sponsorship efforts. Will it work? Perhaps, but Vodafone has a lot of catching up to do.

Not wanted

AT least the chaps at WEW had the good sense to opt for initials instead of continuing to claim that their downmarket shops were What Everyone Wants. Yesterday's latest warning, this time of a £4 million loss, spells out that this is the business almost no one wants. Unless, perhaps, the colourful couple who used to run it still harbour an emotional attachment. Might Gerald and Vera Weisfeld be preparing to come to the rescue?

Chrysler wants to buy Mini and Metro from BMW

By OLIVER AUGUST

CHRYSLER, the US car group, is trying to buy Rover's small cars division, including the Mini and Metro, from BMW, the German owner since 1994. Executives from Chrysler have inspected Rover production facilities with the consent of Rover. Chrysler technicians are working on plans to integrate Rover models into the Chrysler product range, according to Chrysler insiders.

A Rover spokesman con-

firmed Chrysler's interest but said the advances were not welcomed. A Chrysler spokesman said: "At this moment there are no discussions in this respect."

John Lawson, motor analyst at Salomon Brothers, said: "The deal would not be a bad idea. The two companies are clearly working together. The thought has to be that Rover wants to reduce costs by trimming the areas that lose mon-

ey." The sale of the division to Chrysler could result in hundreds of job losses in the UK. Rover currently employs more than 30,000 workers in the production of small cars, luxury cars and off-road vehicles.

Recent discussions between the two groups have been led by Bernd Pischetsrieder, the BMW chairman, and Bob Eaton, the Chrysler chairman. Detailed negotiations about co-operation have been held between Wolfgang Reitzle, of Rover, and Bob Lutz, of Chrysler. Mr Lutz knows Mr Reitzle from his previous employment at BMW.

The two groups agreed a \$500 million joint venture in South America last year. Analysts said the integration of Rover's small cars into Chrysler would be helped by existing co-operation agreements. Chrysler's only European plant is in Austria, set up with substantial subsidies from the Austrian Government. Rover's new Midlands plant would also have been in Austria if the British Government had not given Rover £50 million inward investment aid last November.



Leading a horse to water: Christo Philipson, left, chairman of the British Bloodstock Agency, and Colin Bothway, managing director, reported a near doubling in profits to £302,000 in the year to March 31. The total dividend is 2p, up from 1.5p, out of earnings of 5.8p a share (1.9p). Mr Philipson predicted "gradual strengthening of confidence"

FKI makes agreed bid for Bridon

By ADAM JONES

FKI, the engineering group that failed in its attempt to buy Newman Tonks earlier this year, is making a £131 million agreed bid for Bridon, the wire and rope maker.

The deal prices Bridon shares at 175p, a 65 per cent premium to the price prior to the announcement last month that the pair were in talks. It is expected to be earnings en-

hancing in the first full year of ownership. FKI said about £300 million of Bridon's £362 million turnover last year was from activities that fitted closely with its own.

Bob Beeston, FKI chief executive, said the company expected to achieve substantial pricing benefits and discounts. The deal will also give FKI greater access to some European countries such as Italy and Germany, as well as more

distant markets such as New Zealand.

Bridon employs 3,500 and made a pre-tax profit of £7.3 million last year. FKI announced yesterday that it has bought 22.33 million shares, equivalent to 29.9 per cent of issued ordinary share capital.

Gearing at FKI will rise to 114 per cent as it takes on £40 million of debt.

FKI said the chairman and non-executive directors would

stand down on completion and possible future roles for the four executive directors will be discussed.

Bill Hobbs, Bridon chief operating officer, bought 100,000 shares at 99p on May 29 and James Newman, finance director, bought 8,000.

Shares in FKI fell from 160½p to 157½p. Bridon rose from 137½p to 171½p.

Tempus, page 28

L&B falls to lowest price for six year

By FRASER NELSON

SHARES of Low & Bonar suffered their sharpest one-day fall in almost two years yesterday as the paper, plastic and packing company warned that the soaring pound was eroding its competitive edge overseas.

The shares dived 19p to a six-year low of 262½p as the company returned pre-tax profits of £21.3 million for the six months to May 31, a decline of 23 per cent. The strength of sterling wiped £3 million from the figures.

Jim Hellig, chief executive, warned that the "very competitive trading environment" was likely to continue.

Analysts, who were looking for profits of £54 million by the year end, downgraded forecasts to £47 million — which would be a 10 per cent decline against last year.

Mr Hellig said that group sales had increased by 9 per cent before the currency impact. He intends to avoid further losses by shifting the weight of the company towards higher-margin areas of plastics and packing.

Although earnings fell to 15.1p a share (18.4p), the interim dividend rises to 4.25p (4p). It is due October 6.

Tempus, page 28

Ethical flotation sinks under investor apathy

ETHICAL HOLDINGS, the Nasdaq-listed drug delivery company, has abandoned plans to raise £20 million through a London stock market flotation, because of a lack of investor interest (Paul Dorman writes).

The Cambridgehire company will now shelve its £14 million acquisition of Cloxmel, an Irish pharmaceutical group. It has appointed Lehman Brothers to find other ways of realising shareholder value — which could lead to the sale of Ethical to a trade buyer.

EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION THE TIMES

Win a classic Jaguar XK 150 worth £30,000

Today The Times gives you the chance to win a classic car, the Jaguar XK 150, pictured in our exclusive competition. Just a glance is enough to understand why the British show such enthusiasm for classic cars. It is an instant head-turner. This distinct value has been recognised for the sporting driver. Restored to classic British racing green, retrimmed in tan leather, it has walnut veneer dashboard and a stainless steel sports exhaust (it sounds magnificent). Add to all that a high standard of restoration, a boot badge boasting Jaguar's five 1950s Le Mans wins, a manual close ratio gearbox, handsome chrome wire wheels and a lowered bonnet and you have a car that will be the envy of everyone you know.

For more information on this legendary classic, call our competition hotline on 020 20 20 20 (UK and Int. 990 100 320) with your answer to this question: How many times did Jaguar win Le Mans in the 1950s?

Full details of the competition are available from all correct entries received. The lines will be open from 10.00am to 10.00pm on 12.07.97. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply. Car kindly supplied by The Garage on the Green, Fulham, London SW6 6LH. Tel: 0171 884 1100.

CHANGING TIMES

Budgens targets forecourt

BUDGENS, the supermarket and convenience store group, is to introduce its petrol station format next year, opening up to 45 branches on Q8 forecourts (Sarah Cunningham writes).

From January, one new store of between 1,000 and 2,000 sq ft will be opened each week, mainly in the Budgens' heartland, in the South East of England. Further openings are planned for 1999.

Budgens has six co-branded stores on Kuwait Petroleum forecourts and five on BP sites. The company opened seven high street stores last year and plans a further ten this year and to refurbish 14 others.

Budgens reported a 19.7 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £9.1 million in the year to April 27. Earnings per share were 4.3p (3.7p). A final dividend of 1p will be paid on October 3, making a total of 1.4p (1.25p). Capital expenditure this year will be £18 million-£20 million.

Big rise for directors as Just's profits slip

THREE directors of Just Group, an AIM-listed cartoon licensing company, awarded themselves an average 98 per cent pay rise last year in spite of leading the company through a 32 per cent decline in profits (Fraser Nelson writes).

Will Shorrocks, Paula Hayes and Paul Rivers, the three executive directors who already own a holding worth £1.24 million, took home a total of £247,000 for 1996.

The company, which handles licensing for Mr Cad-

Slough cuts £49m award to £29.75m

SLOUGH ESTATES has agreed to a reduction in its £49 million damages award against Welwyn Hatfield District Council in order to avoid a controversial sale of council housing to finance the damages bill (Carl Morfitt writes).

The property developer is accepting an offer of £29.75 million following a High Court judgment that the council was guilty of fraudulent misrepresentation in inducing the property company to build its Howard Centre in Welwyn Garden City when it was permitting a competing retail development, the Galleria Shopping Centre in Hatfield.

The council was considering a sale of a portion of its 11,200 council homes to finance a settlement, but such a route would have required a majority vote from three quarters of the tenants whose properties were involved.

Midland Interest Rates for Business Customers

New business rates effective from 8 July 1997

	Gross %	Gross CAR %
Money Master		
Up to £5,000	2.97	3.00
£5,000+	3.27	3.30
£25,000+	3.56	3.60
£100,000+	3.66	3.70
£250,000+	3.85	3.90
Premium Business Account		
£5,000+	4.32	4.40
£25,000+	4.80	4.90
£100,000+	5.04	5.15
£250,000+	5.23	5.35
Clients Premium Deposit Account		
£25,000+	4.21	4.25
£100,000+	4.65	4.70
Education Account		
Up to £25,000	4.13	4.20
£25,000+	4.61	4.70
Treasurer Account		
Up to £2,000	1.00	1.00
£2,000+	1.74	1.75
£10,000+	3.69	3.75

Gross: The rate before the deduction of tax. CAR: Compound Annual Rate, or the true Gross return taking into account the frequency of interest payments.
All rates quoted are per annum.
With effect from the 9th June 1997 Base Rate has been increased by 0.25% to 6.50% p.a.

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THE TIMES TUESDAY JULY 8 1997
APUS
omkins books

Mirror chief reflects on image of growth

Eric Reguly finds David Montgomery thwarted by a lack of options for his publishing group

He is desperate to get into cable-television programming. He is dabbling in the TV market. He is buying regional newspapers and is open to the idea of selling national ones and even starting new ones. He has considered a merger with rival media groups. Is there any bit of the industry that does not appeal to David Montgomery?

The chief executive of the Mirror Group has been sending out confusing signals as a furious pace. A month ago, he made it known that he wanted to become a key player in the cable programming market. A few weeks later, he launched a £297 million bid for Midland Independent Newspapers.

Meanwhile, speculation has been mounting that he might sell the Mirror's interest in Scottish Media, the ITV and newspaper group, or its stake in the Independent and its Sunday sister, possibly to the reclusive Barclay brothers. At the same time, he and Michael Bloomberg, the hard-driving owner of the Bloomberg financial information empire, are thought to be considering an assault on the mighty Wall Street Journal and the Financial Times with a financial paper of their own.

The City does not know what to make of

Montgomery any more. Depending on who you talk to, he is either bored, power-crazy, desperate or a combination of all three. The reality is somewhat less tantalising. What is true is that Montgomery, having restored the Mirror Group to sound health, is trying to find a way to underwrite its next stage of growth.

Montgomery is aware that he needs more deals. Christopher Purslow, a media banker at Salomon Brothers, said: "There is really nowhere to go with the Mirror. He is experimenting along the edges and he needs one of those experiments to turn into something big."

But Mirror Group is relatively small — its market capitalisation is about £800 million, or half the value of the Daily Mail and General Trust — and it is largely a one-business, one-market operation. Montgomery, an Ulsterman who had been editor of the News of the World, arrived at the Mirror Group a few months after the death, in late 1991, of Robert Maxwell, who

drained the Mirror Group and its pension fund of hundreds of millions of pounds. At the time, the shares had dipped below 60p.

Montgomery swung into action. The company was refinanced and its pensions made secure. It moved into new headquarters and survived the newspaper price war. The revitalised group picked up a 20 per cent stake in Scottish Television, now Scottish Media, bought 46 per cent of The Independent and launched Live TV.

Montgomery implemented his "colleagues" approach to newspaper production in which back-office, buying and printing functions were combined. Staff at The Independent have felt the brunt of this, finding that multitasking means one person doing the job of four as circulation remains in the doldrums. Mirror Group's profits and share price soared and Montgomery earned the respect of the City. Last year, the shares reached 240p, a four-fold rise under his reign, though they have since underperformed the mar-

Quest for way to pay for retirement

John Grieve Smith looks at the challenges of pension reform

The appointment of Frank Field to mastermind the Government's review of welfare provisions promises major new initiatives on pensions. The two key issues are the level and coverage of the basic state pension; and how to ensure that as many people as possible have a second pension that enables them to maintain their standard of living in retirement.

In each case, the objective must be to relate pensions to levels of pay at the time of retirement and index them against inflation thereafter. The two key issues are the level and coverage of the basic state pension; and how to ensure that as many people as possible have a second pension that enables them to maintain their standard of living in retirement.

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Could the carpetbaggers' luck get carpetbagged?

Caroline Merrell says if demutualisation continues, investors could face cash calls to fund windfalls

Pain of change in tax credit rule

From Mr W. M. White
Sir, Anatole Kalesky is too glib in suggesting that the abolition of tax credits for pension funds ought not to affect business costs. "Brown boxes clever but perils lie ahead", July 4. He may be right in theoretical terms that the method used by actuaries does not accurately reflect returns, but, in the real world, that is the way they are currently valued.

Consequently, a reduction in yield of 16.7 per cent (not 20 per cent) will result in an immediate reduction in funding levels of final salary schemes and an increase in cost for many employers. It will also mean that those in money purchase schemes have an additional uncertainty of whether, in the long run, returns will provide adequate retirement benefits.

It remains to be seen whether the market adjusts to compensate for this loss of income.

Gordon Brown's action may lead to fundamental changes in the long term, but the long term is made up of shorter-term adjustments, some of which may be very painful.

Yours faithfully,
W. M. WHITE,
10 Kilberry Close,
Isleworth, Middlesex.

Prn pays for Stratton

From Group Chief Executive, Prudential Corporation
Sir, Your report (June 30) of Cay Stratton's involvement in the Welfare to Work programme misunderstands her role.

Cay Stratton has been appointed by me to the Task Force which I head, and she will not be paid from public funds. This is not a Government appointment. My company is happy to provide this support to Welfare to Work as part of its commitment to helping young people in this country. As the appointment has only just been made, it will be apparent that Cay Stratton has not been involved in the final stages of drafting the jobs programme.

I am certain, however, that with her wide and invaluable experience she will make a great contribution to the work of the Task Force.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAVIS,
Group Chief Executive,
The Prudential Corporation,
142 Holborn Bars, EC1.

The year of the carpet-bagger is what 1997 will be remembered for. A saver with an average amount in the Halifax, Norwich Union, Alliance & Leicester and Woolwich could now have cash or shares worth in total £8,000. If this is added to the £1,400 expected windfall from the Northern Rock, due to float later on this year, then the most fortuitous of carpetbaggers would now be looking at a total gain of nearly £10,000 — more than the average family's savings.

The total amount of money in the form of cash and shares that has been released into the economy so far from the floatations is about £29 billion — approximately a quarter of which has been converted into cash. A large part of this money will have gone to carpetbaggers — those who have opened accounts or taken out policies only in anticipation of receiving a windfall.

Julie Snowden, a mother of two from Suffolk, has benefited from the floatations of the Halifax, Woolwich, and Norwich Union. She is also hoping for shares in the floatation of the Northern Rock. Her total windfall could be worth more than £12,000. She said: "We are planning to buy a computer, we have already bought a stereo system. We are also considering taking a family holiday, and are hoping to improve our garden with the addition of some trees." She also spent some of the money on her daughter Florence's christening party. She is not, however, planning to spend all her windfall money. She said: "We are going to save some. She is also going to increase her subscription to Oxfam. On the Woolwich floatation alone she made £4,000 in the form of shares she intends to keep."

The question for those who have not been lucky enough or clever enough to benefit from a windfall, is where they should put their money now. The millions who have already reaped rewards from the four floatations may also be considering where they can now switch their cash.

Among the building societies most tipped to be taken over or float is the Nationwide, now the UK's biggest society.



Julie Snowden received more than £4,000 in Woolwich shares yesterday

The Nationwide's cherished mutual status is currently under threat from a group of carpetbaggers endeavouring to be elected to the board. If they succeed, the society will be forced to review its pro-mutual stance. In anticipation of a possible defeat, Goldman Sachs, Nationwide's adviser, has given it a price tag of about £7 billion, making it a possible bid target for Abbey National, Lloyds or the Prudential. However, it is too late for carpetbaggers — two weeks ago Nationwide had to close its doors to new savers as millions of pounds poured in from the newly floated Alliance & Leicester and the Halifax. Other societies that could be on a carpetbaggers hit list include the Chelsea, Birmingham Midshires, West Bromwich and Britannia.

Many analysts believe the shake out and corporate activity in the building society sector will be mirrored in the life insurance sector, after the successful floatation of the Norwich Union and the takeover of Scottish Amicable by the Prudential. They believe that policyholders with shares in NU could put pressure on other mutuals where they have policies to follow the Norwich. The public offer for shares in NU was more than six times oversubscribed — hardly a reflection of public belief in mutuals.

The big mutuals that could be under pressure from their policyholders to float include Standard Life and Scottish Widows. Standard Life, for instance, has more than £45 billion under management. It is a

financially strong organisation and does not have to demutualise. However, Jim Straton, chief executive of UK operations, does not rule out demutualisation at some time in the future.

Scottish Widows is the second biggest mutual with £24 billion under management. It too is in a financially strong position, and does not necessarily have to demutualise. However, some believe it could be a takeover target.

Life insurance companies most tipped to be taken over include Friends Provident, NPI and National Mutual. NPI in particular has become the focus of much bid speculation. It has about 500,000 policyholders and £9 billion assets. One of the companies most hotly tipped to take over NPI is AMP, the Australian insurer, already owner of London Life and Pearl in this country. AMP yesterday denied that any announcement concerning its plans were imminent. It said it had made no secret of the fact that it was keen to make another purchase in this country.

National Mutual, another small company with 400,000 pension policyholders, is also deemed to be a possible takeover target. National Mutual has about £3 billion of assets.

BAT, which owns Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star, has also indicated that it is interested in making another purchase, and has been mentioned as a potential purchaser of National Mutual. However, carpetbaggers in this mutual organisation would have to take out a pensions policy.

Friends Provident, with assets of £13 billion, and two million policyholders, has also been tipped as a takeover target. Friends Provident could be deemed to be vulnerable because its market share has fallen over recent years. It may be too small to float, but could fall to a predator. Other predators could include the newly floated Halifax and the Abbey National. But if the Halifax bids, it might need to raise cash from its shareholders. In other words the carpetbaggers could end up paying for other carpetbaggers' windfalls.

Inside track

TWO weeks since the surprise resignation of Bill Cockburn, chief executive of WH Smith, and yesterday the four non-executives and Jeremy Hardie, the chairman, met to discuss progress. WH Smith has appointed Spencer Stuart, the headhunters, to look elsewhere. Two factors suggest that they might miss out on their fee.

One is the shortage of retail heavy-hitters on the loose — once you have ruled out Liam Strong, ex-Stears, hah, hah. The other: "We've just had a huge strategic review and the portfolio sorted out, and we have a new managing director to run the main chain," says one insider.

"There's a lot to be said for someone who doesn't have to come in and say,

let's have a strategic review." If it is an internal appointment, the favourite is Keith Hamill, finance director, ex-Forre, ex-Guinness, Richard Handover, head of news distribution, is probably too old. John Hancock, boss in the US, has been there for years and probably doesn't want to come back. Fast coming up on the rails is Alan Giles, highly ambitious managing director of the excellent Waterstone's chain and not someone, I hear, who always agreed with Cockburn. Perhaps a little too flash, though, for the City?

● **TRY GROUP**, an obscure contractor, cashed in on Wimbledon with a bullish trading statement and a reference to the new No 1 court which the company built. I like to think that I, too, contributed to this engineering wonder. The company used to give out my home, half a mile away, as the site phone number, despite attempts to persuade them otherwise. For years I received incomprehensible messages on the answering machine. So if Brian is reading this, the fuel pump gauge is at the Fulham office, and your AFP hasn't arrived. Or something like that.

So far so good

REMEMBER those dire warnings that Labour would spell an end to takeovers? If current trends continue, 1997 could be another record year for City fees, eclipsing even the £1.1 bil-



lion paid to bankers, brokers, lawyers, accountants and PR men last year. So claims Acquisitions Monthly, whose latest snapshot of mergers and acquisitions shows continued progress by non-UK owned houses but the pre-eminence of one of the few remaining Brits, Schroders.

Schroders topped the league with transactions in the first half of this year worth £5.8 billion — just ahead of Baring Brothers, Dresner Kleinwort Benson and NatWest Markets, as you might have guessed, had a rotten time. Total fees earned by the City reached £600 million, and another £2 billion transaction, Amersham and Nycomed of Norway, has been sprung since the end of the half year. Oh Lord, how the money rolls in.

Bishop's move

UPHEAVALS at Gartmore with the apparent eclipse of Michael Bishop,

most of whose responsibilities as head of the UK equity division are handed over to Andrew Fleming. Both men have been at the fund manager for 13 years, Fleming becoming head of international equities two years ago after six and a half years running the Tokyo office. Now the two sides are being merged, in order, it seems, to "deliver maximum benefit of the trends in business globalisation". Bishop will concentrate on client relationships, certain pension fund portfolios and asset allocation. Fleming gets to run the show.

"What we have tried to do is turn it into a do-able job," says Bishop, who refuses to comment on suggestions that he has been pushed aside. "The fact is, I'm still here, and I have little to add to the official announcement. I have got a continuing commitment. I'm not about to change it now. I get in at 6.30 in the morning, and I will continue to get in at 6.30."

● **I HAD** better be very careful with this. I hear a story of a top-ranked analyst, nobody's fool, you would think, who was approached to join a big US investment house for the sort of silly salary big US investment houses pay. Not the safest job in the world, but he and a couple of colleagues had been offered a two-year contract, and so two years of guaranteed work. Except that they took the contract to a good employment lawyer, a course of action the Americans had clearly not expected, and it turned out from the fine print to be only a one-year contract. This crucial point had apparently been missed by some of the City's best minds. The moral: even the richest firms penny-pincher; that's how they get rich.

Chase is on

IF A horde of a couple of hundred City types come charging towards you in Battersea Park tomorrow evening, step aside sharply. There are another 9,800 behind them. The Chase Corporate Challenge is the biggest event of its kind and now into its 11th year.

More than 500 companies are taking part in the three and a half mile race, including a scattering of chairmen. Among the oldest must be Sir John Craven, no longer chairman of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell but heading the firm's 500-strong team at the age of 57, and Colin Parsons. The whipper-in chairman of Taylor Woodrow is an experienced runner. He is 63.

MARTIN WALLER



Craven: heading the field for Deutsche Morgan Grenfell

ALL CLEAR NOW?

bumf n. usu. derog. papers, documents (often prec. by what's all this: I'm not signing clause 2, para 4, sub.2.4.6 of this, etc.) for rapid trans.

affidavit n. 1 agreeable Welsh farmer 2 written statement produced in court which should be carefully drawn up.

paralegal n. 1 one who provides advice at great height (usu. 20,000 feet) 2 wordy legal document with many indented lines 3 a person trained in subsidiary legal matters.

case-law n. 1 the principle that a suitcase will always travel in an equal and opposite direction to the aircraft you're in 2 the law as established by the outcome of former cases.

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"My first husband had his faults but at least he had a Woolwich account"

THE TIMES TUESDAY JULY 8 1997

10-11-50

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1

300	Barling Tables	446	2.2	49
304	Br Assets	1127	5.2	19
107	Br Expense Svc	1177	1.1	

[illegible]

1972-73	114%	-	2.94	308
1973-74	118%	-	2.94	359
1974-75	122%	-	2.94	359

237	French Corn	305	1.1	16.7
457	Sioux	487	3.0	
3247	Goldsmith Spr	3271	2.7	17.1

200	Prize Hall	345	+ 10	...
045	Rancho Ely	1070		0.1
679	Southern	345		

هَذَا مِنْ الْأَهْلِ

Small operators take heart from Budget

By Rodney Hobson

BUSINESS as usual is the mood of owner managers and smaller companies as they digest the measures in last week's Budget. It is what Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, did not do as much as what he put into his new red attaché case.

Advisers believe the current climate for small businesses will encourage further investment and improve the benefits for owner managers of leaving money in the business. Maurice Parry-Wingfield of Deloitte & Touche, the accountants, says: "It is good that the favourable climate not only remains largely undisturbed but is actually improved. In particular, Gordon Brown has left it relatively easy for proprietors to sell out on retirement or pass their business on to their children without having to pay steep tax bills."

Another popular measure has been the two-point reduction in the rate of corporation tax and the accelerated allowance for capital expenditure. Businesses earning up to £300,000 in profits will save £6,000 while those earning more than £1.5 million will save £30,000. The improvement in capital allowances will benefit businesses with turnover up to £11.2 million. A company spending £100,000 on new plant could make an immediate saving of £8,000.

Business advisers say owner

managers should review the best way of paying themselves because dividends, bonuses and pension contributions all have different tax costs.

Mike Warburton, senior tax partner at Grant Thornton, the business advisers, says: "The tax cut is a real incentive for small and medium companies to retain profits, particularly when coupled with the higher tax allowances allowing them to write off investment in new plant and machinery more quickly. This will encourage growth and investment."

Mr Parry-Wingfield believes that the promised review of capital

gains tax is more likely to produce good news than bad for small businesses. Measures that were predicted but were not in the Budget included a tightening of the rules on inheritance tax and on company car perks and free fuel.

Mr Parry-Wingfield expects the Government to continue to be tough on tax avoidance and to produce some nasty surprises in the future. He says that doing sensible things in a tax-efficient manner is better than finding artificial ways of avoiding tax.

NatWest Bank is already looking towards the next Budget. It suggests that a 10p starting rate for income tax on the first £3,100 of taxable income would save sole traders, partnerships and their employees 17 per cent in income tax and directors and employees of small limited companies 11 per cent. It calls for the VAT registration threshold, currently turnover of £48,000, to be raised to £100,000.

Peter Ibbotson, head of small business services, says: "This would free many small businesses from extra paperwork and save them from losing out to smaller competitors who do not have to charge VAT on goods."

He would also like to see the administration of PAYE and NIC systems simplified.

Vet's 'miracle cure' wins award

By Rodney Hobson

THE most satisfactory small business idea is one that leaves rivals scratching their heads and asking: "Why did I not think of that?"

Few can be more remarkable than the notion that gained for Dr Eddie Logan one of the five export awards for smaller businesses from the Department of Trade and Industry last week. He makes orthopaedic shoes for cows.

This remarkable invention has seen sales double over the past three years and exports more than triple. Nearly three quarters of turnover now comes from overseas.

Dr Logan is a vet who specialised in cows' feet. He also worked as a young man on his family farm in Northern Ireland, so he knew that lameness in dairy cattle caused distress to the animal and a fall in milk yields. Beef cattle tend not to be affected because they usually have tougher feet.

His shoes work because the cow has a cloven hoof. If one half of the hoof is injured, the shoe, made from recycled PVC, is slipped on to the good half, thus raising the damaged half clear of the ground.

He set up his company, Giltspur, in 1991 with the aid of a grant from Ledu, the Northern Ireland government body to promote small businesses. He says: "I saw the downside of having lame cows but I did not appreciate that my shoe would have such a dramatic effect. After the foot and mouth outbreak in the late 1960s a lot of cattle were imported from



Dr Eddie Logan, whose bovine orthopaedic shoes help to beat lameness and to maintain milk yields

the US and Canada, but they had foot problems. A friend who owned a manufacturing company thought my idea of a shoe was a good one and offered to make them. I produced one in paper mache and his staff made 50. I put them on cows and they worked."

Another friend in Scotland was so impressed that he offered to market them and the manufacturing company advertised them. Dr Logan says: "I did not know that

the advert was going in the paper and we had orders before we had the shoes made. Farmers were ringing me up and we still had not got the adhesive worked out."

The shoes sell at £4 each and are made through injection moulding. Production is being doubled by producing two right and two left shoes at a time instead of one each. Giltspur can be contacted by telephoning 01960 322 040.

The other award winners were:

GN Burgess & Co of Feltham, Middlesex, which used the technology for making bicycle handlebars to produce stacking chairs and folding tables.

Pyrone of Heflaby, south Yorkshire, which makes electronic security equipment.

Boing of Bristol, a designer and manufacturer of children's play equipment and Bernhart & Co, from Rugby, which makes machinery for maintaining golf courses.

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<p>GENERAL</p> <p>NOTICE TO READERS</p> <p>While we take reasonable precautions with all advertisements, readers are strongly advised to take professional advice before paying a deposit or entering into any financial commitment.</p>	<p>BUSINESS FOR SALE</p> <p>AM established and growing business opportunity. Established in 1985, this business has a proven track record. The owner is leaving the business to a new owner. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES</p> <p>ABSOLUTELY Tired! Earn £1000 per month. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>NEW</p> <p>Do you currently want to be in business? This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>START YOUR OWN FINANCE BROKERAGE</p> <p>ARRANGING MORTGAGES, LOANS & INSURANCE. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>LOANS & INVESTMENT</p> <p>MANAGED new business opportunity. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>BUSINESS SERVICES</p> <p>COMPANY Credit, outgoings, insurance, etc. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>COMPUTERS & COMPUTING SERVICES</p> <p>REPAIRS, upgrades, etc. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>DISTRIBUTORS & AGENTS</p> <p>RELIABLE Business opportunity. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>BUSINESS OVERSEAS</p> <p>ATTN: Principals USA, purchase business opportunity. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>
<p>BUSINESS FOR SALE</p> <p>CHILDREN'S Day Time Day Nursery. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>BUSINESS WANTED</p> <p>MULTIMEDIA Development. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>PRIVATE DETECTIVE</p> <p>Private Investigator. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>INTERNET MARKETING COMPANY</p> <p>Search Engine Optimization. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>ARRANGING MORTGAGES, LOANS & INSURANCE</p> <p>FREE INFO PACK. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>IDEA OR INVENTION</p> <p>International Property Design. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>JERSEY BASED GAMBLER</p> <p>With experienced players in the best gambling clubs. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>OUTSTANDING</p> <p>Opportunity. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>MESSAGE plus</p> <p>24 Hour LIVE TELEPHONE ANSWERING. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>	<p>WEOLASERS</p> <p>CO2 Laser. This is a real opportunity. The business is profitable and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business. The business is located in a prime location and has a large customer base. The owner is looking for a new owner who is willing to take over the business.</p>

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INTERESTED PARTIES SHOULD:

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- be willing to accept transfer of the present employees on their existing conditions of service (if TUPE applies).

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- details of past experience of the provision of residential / nursing care homes;
- details of current involvement in the provision of such services;
- copies of last set of audited accounts for your organisation;
- copy of last annual report;
- copy of last inspection report by a Registration Authority for one of the current homes provided by your organisation;
- the names and addresses of:
 - a) A Bankers reference
 - b) A Trading reference
 - c) The Local Authority area in which you trade and which would provide a reference for your organisation.

REPLY FULLY IN WRITING BY 11 AUGUST 1997.

Head of Property Services, Directorate of Planning, Environment & Technical Services, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, County Hall, Beverley, HU17 9BA.

Contact Officer: Mr CMJ Segrott, tel (01482) 844187, fax (01482) 884268.

QUOTING REF: JS/17353.

EAST RIDING OF YORKSHIRE COUNCIL

LAW

● BIRTH PANGS 35
● UK IN HK 35

Gary Slapper explains how a new kind of drink could lead users into a difficult legal area

Every year desk sergeants record the details of tens of thousands of alcohol-related offences. In such a setting, the recent profusion in the drinks market of alcopops and ready-mixed sweet cocktails can be seen as fueling an already significant problem.

Last month a publican and his wife from Ormskirk in Lancashire were fined £7,000 and lost their licence after Grabmy Bailey, a boy they had served alcopop drinks, was hit by a train after leaving their pub very drunk. At the time of the decision by Ormskirk magistrates, yet another new alcoholic product apparently aimed at children — a vodka and raspberry ice pop — was coming under investigation.

The proliferation of alcopops is likely to increase alcohol-related problems, both by people who know what they are drinking and by others who become involuntarily intoxicated.

It may be seen as alarming in this context that both voluntary and involuntary intoxication are valid defences to many criminal charges.

Alcopops, which generated profits of more than £280 million last year, have an alcoholic content higher than that of most beers and lagers but with strong flavours like vanilla or lemonade. It is quite possible to drink such a product without realising its true content.

In many types of crime, the prosecution has to prove that the defendant had a particular frame of mind, such as intention or recklessness. Where a defendant has the stipulated attitude, it is irrelevant whether or not he or she was drunk. He cannot be heard to say that he would never have behaved as he did were he sober.

In one case, a man gave way to his paedophilic inclinations only, he said, because someone had laced his drink with sedatives. The drink had been surreptitiously spiked by a business enemy specifically to help to procure sexual acts with a 15-year-old boy that were to be recorded and used in a blackmail scheme. The defendant was convicted at Leeds Crown Court of indecent assault but his conviction was at first quashed by the Court of Appeal, which took the view that a man could



A proliferation of alcopops is likely to increase alcohol-related problems (posed picture)

Alcopops over popcorn?

not be convicted where his otherwise-controlled desires were released through the secret administration of a disinhibiting substance because the operative fault is not his.

The House of Lords restored the conviction and stated that when the defendant committed the indecent assault, though he would not have acted as he did were he sober, he did know what he was doing when he behaved sexually with the boy. The Lords adopted a "disinhibition" test from another case that "a drunken intent is still an intent".

Where, however, through involuntary intoxication, a

person does not have the required mental element for a crime, the prevailing view is that there should be an acquittal.

Yet the courts have been very cautious about the notion of involuntary intoxication. In one case a man charged with indecent assault argued that he had not known what he was doing. He admitted to having been drinking in a pub but claimed that wine he had drunk afterwards had caused more alcohol than he had realised. The Court of Appeal rejected this argument, ruling that where a person has been voluntarily drinking

even a little alcohol, he was not permitted to argue that intoxication was involuntary simply because he had underestimated the amount or strength of alcohol he was imbibing.

Where a defendant commits a crime while drunk, his intoxication will not afford him a defence if he has been charged with an offence for which the prosecution need prove only recklessness. Indeed, in such a case anyone arguing that through his own efforts he had become so drunk as not to appreciate what he was doing will be condemning himself of recklessness. By contrast, where a defendant is facing a

serious charge such as murder, requiring proof of a specific intention, then his intoxication at the time of the crime can be a defence if it prevented him having the relevant information.

The concession to people charged with "specific intent" — broadly, the most grave crimes — arose in the early 19th century as a way of allowing defendants to avoid being hanged or transported if they were too drunk when committing an offence to have been seen as coldly wicked.

In some circumstances, of course, being affected by alcohol is an integral part of an offence. The Road Traffic Act of 1988 for example, includes several offences such as driving or being in charge of a vehicle while under the influence of drink or drugs.

Here, victims of laced drinks cannot escape conviction, although the courts can be sympathetic. In one case a man in a pub who had drunk beer moderately, then ordered a tonic water, had his last drink laced with vodka by a woman planning to reveal the trick before he left. She wanted him not to drive back to his home but to sleep with her and she expected that when told of the vodka he would not risk the drive. He left before she had a chance to tell him, but though he was convicted of a drink-driving offence, he was given an absolute discharge.

There have been various reports recommending legal reforms in this area. The Law Commission has rejected the idea of replacing the existing law with a new offence of "criminal intoxication" and recommended instead a series of revisions to today's rules.

After recent disturbing news, such as the findings of Swansea's Centre for Substance Abuse Research that 55 per cent of 11 to 16-year-olds are regular drinkers of alcohol (rising to 71 per cent of 16-year-olds), George Howarth, the Home Office Minister, has begun an inquiry on this issue. Whichever way the law is finely tuned, deeper social questions need to be asked about why a generation of children has come to favour alcopops over popcorn.

Dr Slapper is Principal Lecturer in Law, Staffordshire University.

The knives sharpen at Chancery Lane

Private detectives, threats of libel writs, leaked documents and allegations of dirty tricks can mean only one thing — blood is being spilt in another election for the job of President of the Law Society.

From 1954 to 1995 the elections were uncontested. The deputy vice-president became the vice-president who became the President. It was all very sedate. It produced a steady stream of solicitors who could be relied upon to say the right things in public and generally behave themselves. They were all so wary that a knighthood went with the job until the Government decided that it was no longer appropriate for senior lawyers to get knighthoods automatically. High Court judges were exempted from this ruling.

Then in 1995 there was an election between Henry Hodge, Eileen Pembroke and Martin Mears with Mr Mears emerging triumphant and pledging reform. His year in office was racked with controversy as he lambasted both members of the Law Society Council and senior Law Society officials for blocking his reforms, while he was much criticised for tactless comments in the media. When Mr Mears announced that he was to stand for a second term, his critics united behind the well-known figure of Tony Girdling who won the 1996 election with Phillip Sycamore as vice-president.

The Law Society dropped out of the news and when Mr Mears's former vice-president, the respected Robert Sayer, joined the Sycamore slate for the 1997 election, few would have given anything for Mr Mears's chances if he had stood again for President. The average solicitor is not interested in Law Society elections. The only time an interest is shown is when the profession's economic interests are threatened and the Law Society is (for once) able to do something about it. This happens only rarely and the mood is otherwise one of apathy and indifference.

The two issues that have thrown the election wide open concern the Solicitors Indemnity Fund (SIF) contributions and the alleged involvement of the Sycamore team in a "dirty tricks" campaign to secure the presidency. The SIF faces a £248 million shortfall, largely as a result of negligent conveyancing during years that had hitherto been regarded as "closed" for insurance purposes. This is in addition to £200 million required to pay claims for the open years. Mr Mears has consistently made an issue out of the way in which the SIF is run and has claimed that it has underestimated the effect of cut-price conveyancing on claims. The official estimate is that premiums will have to rise by 80 per cent to cover the cost of the

deficit. The apportionment of the losses is one of the most important and contentious issues for the profession over the next year. The survival of many firms is dependent on it.

Then there was the leak of a note of a secret meeting in February attended by Mr Sycamore and his campaign team. It was reported that senior members of Lowe Bell Communications, a public relations firm which had worked for the Law Society, would give unpaid help to the Sycamore team provided their involvement was kept secret. These included Jonathan Hill who was adviser to John Major and who may have thought he would have time on his hands after the general election. Mr Sycamore was to organise a meeting with Mr Hill to discuss a "negative campaign" and the hiring private detectives to investigate Mr Mears and those who might stand with him. The note acknowledged that it would be disastrous if knowledge of this leaked out. Mr Sycamore later said that he had rejected out of hand the suggestion of hiring inquiry agents and that the note was not an agreed minute.

The most controversial part of the note dealt with managing the agendas of Law Society meetings to stop bad news coming out. The Law Society may not be able to do much to improve the lot of solicitors but it can, through mismanagement, cost them a lot of money and the profession expects its leaders to be frank. All the money spent in developing the high street computer starter kit for solicitors has been lost. £10 million has been wasted on the defective Regis computer and the refurbishment of the headquarters has overrun by £3.4 million. Then there is still the SIF with its £448 million black hole.

Many solicitors fear that they might end up as the equivalent of Lloyd's names with demands for payments for losses that they did not know existed.

These issues have made the election wide open. The "steady as you go" approach of Mr Sycamore does not sit well with the image of private detectives and agenda management. The suggestion is that this will put off the more traditional solicitors. But does this leave the field open for Mr Mears? His support among the beleaguered smaller practitioners is probably fairly solid but he has managed to upset a lot of the vested interest groups and many of the Sycamore supporters will have voted before the story of the secret meeting broke. Polling ends on Thursday and the result will be publicly known by next Tuesday. The indications are that it will be a low turnout and a close result.

● The author is a practising solicitor



PATRICK STEVENS

Might it be Mears again?

THE Law Society is steeling itself for a possible Martin Mears victory when the result of the presidential elections is announced on Monday evening. Many believe that Phillip Sycamore's alleged dirty tricks campaign against Mr Mears may tip the balance in Mr Mears's favour, although much depends on how many solicitors bother to vote.

Simon Baker, the author of the "dirty tricks" document, has since announced his resignation from the Law Society Council.

The last time Mears, a Norfolk solicitor, was President, the society was plunged into infighting and backstabbing. Some insiders insist,

however, that Mr Mears has become more statesmanlike and his ideas more measured.

In what may be the first signs of the taming of Mears, tomorrow he unveils a new guide on client care for solicitors, which he has edited for the Office for the Supervision of Solicitors — not the kind of initiative he would have touched three years ago.

Tony Girdling has delivered a parting shot at Mr Mears. "He has," the outgoing President says, "an enormous amount to contribute — every committee, every council, needs a Martin Mears. But I don't believe he is suited to leadership. He is intelligent, engaging — but there is something in his make-up which means he can't resist finding the soft underbelly in every-

thing and going for it."

Mr Girdling fears that the good relations between the society and the Government would be jeopardised if Mr Mears won. So he has given him some advice. "I told him," says Mr Girdling, "that if he wins he will have to learn to comport himself differently... he has to be prepared to read the papers and listen to the views of those who have worked up policy proposals and done the work."

● First it was the cricket. Then it was Wimbledon and now it is the turn of the Kennedy's Charity Bowls Tournament to be blighted by the bad weather. The tournament, which is being held to raise money for research into muscular dystrophy, was going to be

held last week. But incessant rain forced the City law firm to postpone it until the week starting July 21.

CPS Netted

THE Crown Prosecution Service is the latest part of the Government to go on to the Internet. The site will explain what the CPS is up to. Also this week a book on law and the Internet, published by Clive Gringras, a solicitor with Olszewski, Sir Robin Jacob, the High Court judge, says in the foreword: "Anyone with an Internet problem will find this book a first port of call — and in many cases will find an answer, or a reasonable prediction of an answer."

The CPS said the site would enable the CPS to pass information direct to the public, universities and schools. It would explain the CPS's history, its place in the criminal justice system and the role of the Director of Public Prosecutions and some previous cases.

● CPS: <http://www.cps.gov.uk>

Cab rankers

THE cab rank system is alive and well, according to *Press Gazette*. The trade paper for journalists notes that during the recent Aitken libel trial, George Carman, QC, *World In Action*'s counsel, lined up against Charles Gray, Jonathan Aitken's QC, and that the tables will be turned next year, when the programme faces another libel action from Marks & Spencer.

This time Mr Gray is due to represent *World In Action* while Mr Carman is scheduled to appear for the other side.

"It's official," comments *Press Gazette*. "Lawyers are just taxis on a rank."

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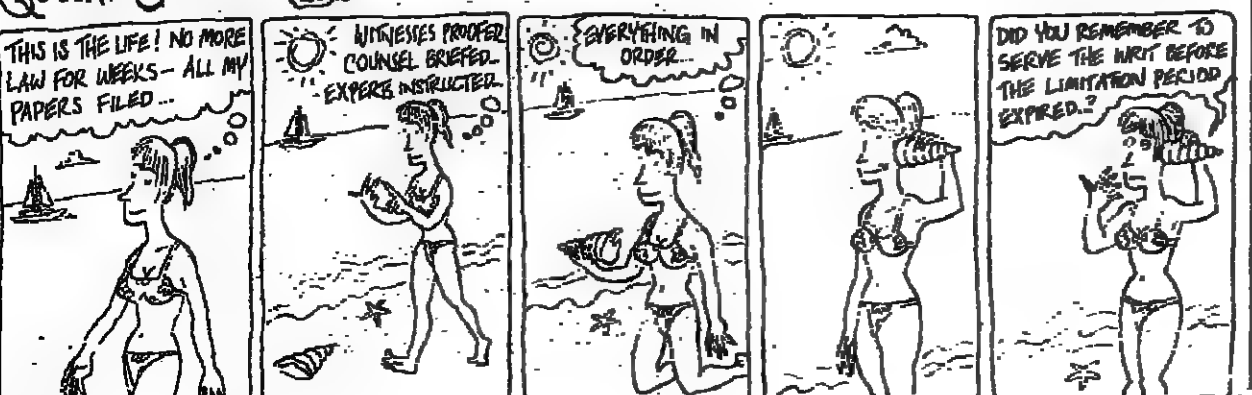
Straw: Inner Temple's warm embrace

Straw in the Inn

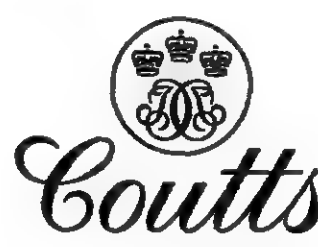
THE Inner Temple, Jack Straw's Inn, has been quick to welcome the new Home Secretary into its inner circle. Soon after Labour's general election victory, it invited Mr Straw to become a bencher — and on June 20 he accepted. Fellow benchers include Lord Woolf, the Master of the Rolls, Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, and Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the former Lord Chancellor — not to mention Lord Irvine of Lairg, QC, the present Lord Chancellor.

But before anybody accuses Mr Straw of allowing himself to be nobbled by the legal establishment, they should remember that Michael Howard, his predecessor as Home Secretary, was a bencher at nearby Middle Temple, a fact that did not seem to influence his distinctly populist policies towards the criminal justice system.

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Talking it up

Interviewing a candidate recently, I was struck by the sudden fall in her spirits when she began talking about a successful deal she had negotiated in the USA. Before she got onto this subject, I'd begun to think that she was a dull and lifeless lawyer best suited to the Civil Service. She'd been complaining about her current firm, how they often left her - a three-year qualified solicitor - to negotiate with senior solicitors ten years qualified; how they expected her to work nights and weekends. Typical complaints from unsatisfied solicitors with the leading City firms. And the more she complained, the more her spirits rose. She couldn't help it. She didn't want to appear dull or lifeless, but the minutes occupying her mind simply depressed her.

The speed with which her spirits rose when she talked about the US deal was remarkable. Her eyes lit up, she sat up in her chair. Victims of a destiny in the Civil Service begin to fade. She became a lively candidate well suited to a job at Otis or Virgin Atlantic. Clearly, when being interviewed it pays to avoid subjects which tend to depress you. Sometimes, of course, they cannot be avoided. You may be asked why you wish to leave your present firm, or how you did in your exams. However, if you're aware of the effect depressing subjects can have on your image you can at least try to remain cheerful.

Michael Chambers

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مكتبة الأمل

Barbara Hewson asks whether judges have the right to order Caesareans

A woman's freedom under attack

Government policy says that women should have informed choice and control in childbirth. So it is anomalous that judges have authorised Caesarean operations against women's wishes — in effect assaults on adults declining obstetric intervention.

In several recent cases — *Re S* (1992), *Norfolk and Norfolk NHS Trust v W* (1996), *Re L* (1996), *Re MB* (1997) — adults had no chance to be in court, to give evidence, to have independent experts, to get discovery of medical records, to interview witnesses, or to know the case against them. Cynics observed that if a pregnant woman accepts medical advice, she is "competent" (capable of making her own decisions); if not, she is "incompetent".

"Forced Caesarean" cases cannot be justified on the ground of state necessity, a principle established in the mid-18th century. So what is the reason for them? Judges have spoken of their concern for the life of the "unborn child" and the desire to protect it.

But if this is their guiding motive, it is seen by others as an attempt to introduce "foetal rights" by the back door. Any such attempt would offend the rule of law. Our law does not recognise foetal rights. In *Re F (in utero)* (1988) the Court of Appeal held that judges must not curtail women's civil liberties for the sake of foetuses.

Lord Justice Balcombe said that "in such a sensitive field, affecting as it does the liberty of the individual, it is not for the judiciary to extend the law". To Lord Justice May, it was unthinkable that a

court order in respect of a foetus could be carried out against a woman by force, or by jail.

Sir Stephen Brown, the President of the Family Division, challenged this in a case known as *Re S* (1992) when authorising non-consensual Caesarean surgery on a competent Nigerian in labour. At the 1993 Bar conference, he indicated that he would do this again, if another case arose.

It is unfortunate that the judgment in *Re S* uses language reminiscent of that of foetal rights proponents. It describes Mrs S as "mother"; her foetus as "unborn child" or "baby". Foetal rights proponents argue that pregnant women are a subordinate class, whose liberties can be abridged for the sake of foetuses. Their views are coloured by absolutist notions of maternal self-sacrifice.

The influence of *Re S* appears in comments by Mr Justice Johnson in 1996: "No judge has yet refused to make an order and has had to live with the subsequent news that

a child [sic] has died that might have lived... I do not think there is a possibility of giving attention to the legal niceties".

Not only some judges but also the executive are implicated in this disturbing trend. In *Re S* (1992), the case of the Nigerian woman, the Official Solicitor argued for forced Caesarean surgery. In *W* (1996) he argued for the use of force to impose a non-consensual forceps delivery. But the Official Solicitor has no mandate to pursue such a heterodox agenda, and must have appreciated the adverse implications for women's autonomy.

As for the NHS, it has no mandate to promote "foetal rights". Yet in 1996, a law firm acting for 70 NHS trusts announced a 24-hour helpline for trusts seeking to compel non-compliant women to undergo obstetric intervention, in response to NHS "need".

In *Re MB* (1997), the case in which a woman refused intervention because of her fear of needles, the Court of Appeal grappled with

these forces. MB, who refused surgery, was "naïve" and "not very bright". After a 30-minute phone call ending at 4.55pm, a judge declared her temporarily incompetent. The Court of Appeal agreed at last that she was incompetent, and ordered her to undergo Caesarean surgery by force. It then asked the hospital to file evidence. Weeks later, it affirmed the common law principle, laid down by the House of Lords in *Sidaway* (1985), that competent adults have the right to accept or refuse treatment, for reasons that are rational or irrational. This includes pregnant adults. The court also reaffirmed that foetuses have no separate interests capable of being taken into account even at point of birth.

Lord Justice Thorpe recently spoke on *Re MB* at a conference. He said that no family judge had upheld a pregnant woman's autonomy so as to deny a foetus "the best possible chance". Parliament, he indicated, should intervene after *Re MB*. Otherwise, he said, "the obvious risk was restatements of principle by appellate judges which trial judges simply find impossible to follow [my italics]".

This sounds like special pleading. The common law does not recognise foetuses. Foetuses are not "children". Even if family judges disagree with the common law, they cannot refuse to follow it.

To refuse to defy the rule of law, if judges wish to refuse, they are not fulfilling their role, and, I believe, should resign.

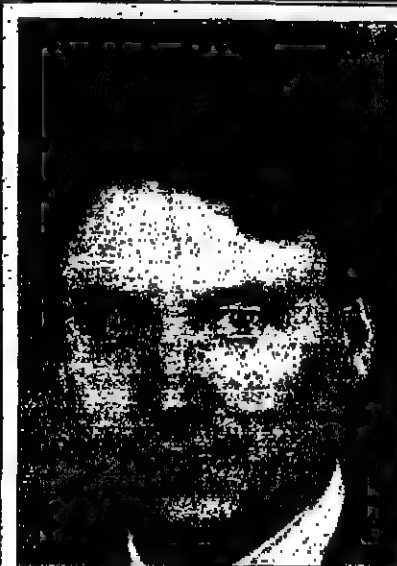
● The author is a practising barrister



The new baby: surely a mother should have the right to decide against a Caesarean section?

Chinese takeover continues in Hong Kong

Edward Fennell looks into the future for lawyers in the former colony



Mullarkey: stack of invitations from the British and Chinese

There was no work done in most Hong Kong law offices last week for the duration of the three-day holiday marking the changeover to China; partying was high on everyone's agenda. Unlike some of the British Government officials worried about the constitutional and human rights issues, lawyers in the Hong Kong offices of the London-based law firms were gearing up for the time of their lives.

David Mullarkey, who runs the Linklaters & Paines office, had a stack of invitations from both the British and Chinese sides. Alexandra Livesey of Allen & Overy said that all the lawyers she knew would be celebrating the historic occasion.

Business is booming in Hong Kong and most British lawyers are confident that life will continue much as before. In

particular, they are quick to reject some of the fears that in the post-colonial euphoria they will be shunned by Chinese clients. Mark Johnson of Herbert Smith, for example, said: "Hong Kong is a sophisticated financial centre and I cannot foresee why that should happen."

But some are not so sanguine. Stephen Wozencroft has been based in the Far East for many years and runs the local *Wide Sange* office in Hong Kong. He fears that "the days of people like me are numbered". Localisation of staff (the replacement of foreigners in Hong Kong jobs), means he believes that British lawyers will play less of a role in Hong Kong than previously, and that many

more Chinese lawyers must be recruited and trained if London firms are to maintain a big presence.

Mr Wozencroft also thinks that sheer force of numbers may drive English into second place as the business language of the former colony. Laws will be in two languages, but the status of English is almost bound to be reduced as the Chinese flex their muscles.

More than a score of London-based law firms, as well as American, Australian and local outfits, operate in Hong Kong. Tension exists between the various nationalities, but already many people say that the local scene is dominated by

Hong Kong firms (albeit with colonial titles). A Johnson Stokes & Master spokeswoman, for example, was quick to claim that her firm, together with Deacons Graham & James, was top dog. "London law firms," she said firmly, "are not the market leaders here."

The separate status of Hong Kong means that it can still make sense to run a practice focused on the domestic work of the city itself. But most firms are starting to build up their involvement with the People's Republic. Slaughter & May, for example, believes it is still best to do its China work from Hong Kong, but some firms have opened offices either in Shanghai or Beijing. Herbert Smith uses its office as a focus for dev-

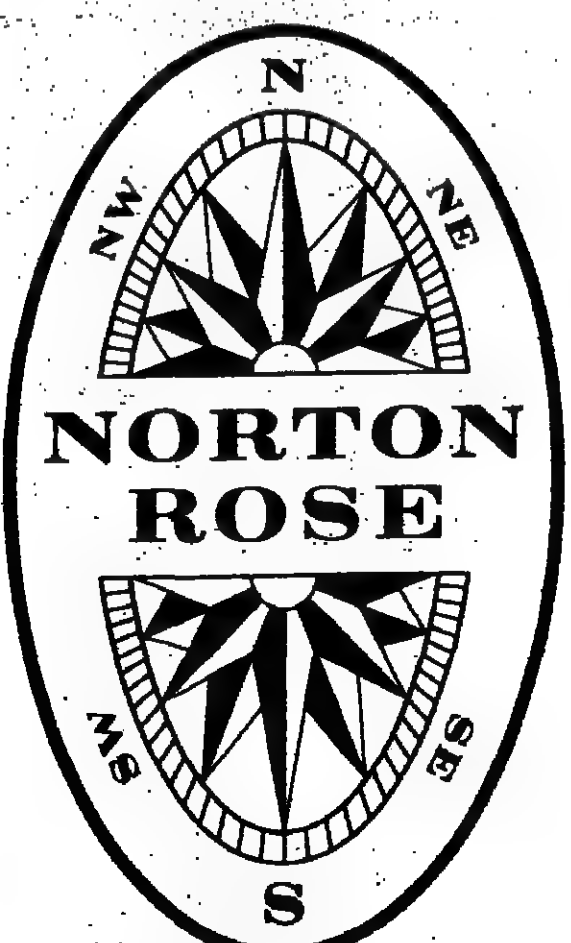
elopments for the whole Far East region. It is quite possible, however, that the new markets and opportunities opened up by reunification could lead to very different forms of legal service.




New China Consultants, for example, may be a model of what is to come. As the intellectual property rights enforcement operation in the People's Republic for the London Docklands law firm Rouse & Co, NCN has offices in Hong Kong and Beijing, and has made a success of what was believed to be a no-go area: trying to close down the multitude of operations that copy Western products coming from factories on the mainland.

The practice has thrived by operating in the Chinese way. Many of its staff, especially in Beijing, are Chinese nationals.

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Please contact Andrea Melnick, Dominique W Pengelly or Alison Barrett (all qualified lawyers) on 0171 417 1400 or write to them at the London office for more information in complete confidence. Evenings Weekends 0171 431 5860. Confidential Fax 0171 417 1444. Email: andream@garfieldrobbins.co.uk

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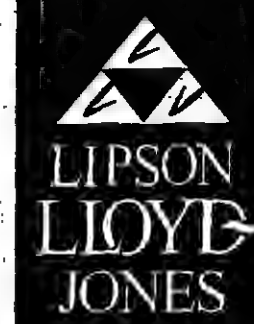
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► Worldwide General Counsel - Entertainment Switzerland
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► Asset Management - European Role London
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► Employment - European Role London
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► Entertainment - Part-Time London
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► Pensions/Employment London, EC2
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A prestigious company which operates in a particular niche area of the engineering industry seeks to hire a lawyer who combines an engineering background (previous career/degree) with specialist IP experience and the ability to handle a range of other legal issues. The role, which will suit a 1-6 year qualified lawyer, demands a versatile and commercially minded lawyer capable of adapting to a fast paced environment where no two days are the same. Ref: 4319. Contact: Paul Rumsack.

COMPLIANCE - IN HOUSE

Many investment banks, stockbrokers and other SFA regulated companies are crying out for junior lawyers with some SFA regulatory experience to join their compliance departments. You do not have to be a specialist in the field providing you have some experience and a willingness to be trained. Because of the shortage of such expertise career prospects are superb and promotions can happen very quickly once you have proved yourself. 1-4 years' ppe. Ref: 4357/4305/4045/4495. Contact: Paul Rumsack.

BROADCASTING ROLE - IN HOUSE

Media Lawyer required for Central London location. Drafting of agreements, supporting colleagues and negotiating to maximise the company's advantage are the main requirements. Previous experience in broadcasting essential. IT experience helpful. Ref: 4300. Contact: Richard Gawn.

PHARMACEUTICALS - IN HOUSE

Successful Pharmaceutical firm is offering a broad based role advising across a wide range of the company's activities. Experience of US reporting and especially M & A required. Competitive salary and package on offer. Ref: 3281. Contact: Richard Gawn.

CORPORATE

Friendly City-based practice has opportunities for newly qualified corporate lawyers. You are likely to be trained in a larger firm and be seeking a smaller and more cosy environment in which everyone is on first-name terms. High quality of work and life guaranteed. Experience of M & A, disposals, Stock Exchange and transactional matters will be a distinct advantage. Ref: 4377. Contact: Cleo Bluns.

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

Top City Firm with a leading reputation for its litigation services seeks 2-4 years qualified commercial litigators. Your client base will be international therefore experience of multi-jurisdictional disputes will set you aside from the competition. You will be familiar with High Court, arbitration and ADR not afraid of advocacy! To join a very happy team with excellent support and on-going training. Ref: 4373. Contact: Cleo Bluns.

HOME COUNTRIES

A prestigious company which operates in a particular niche area of the engineering industry seeks to hire a lawyer who combines an engineering background (previous career/degree) with specialist IP experience and the ability to handle a range of other legal issues. The role, which will suit a 1-6 year qualified lawyer, demands a versatile and commercially minded lawyer capable of adapting to a fast paced environment where no two days are the same. Ref: 4319. Contact: Paul Rumsack.

CITY

Many investment banks, stockbrokers and other SFA regulated companies are crying out for junior lawyers with some SFA regulatory experience to join their compliance departments. You do not have to be a specialist in the field providing you have some experience and a willingness to be trained. Because of the shortage of such expertise career prospects are superb and promotions can happen very quickly once you have proved yourself. 1-4 years' ppe. Ref: 4357/4305/4045/4495. Contact: Paul Rumsack.

3-4 YEARS' PPE

Media Lawyer required for Central London location. Drafting of agreements, supporting colleagues and negotiating to maximise the company's advantage are the main requirements. Previous experience in broadcasting essential. IT experience helpful. Ref: 4300. Contact: Richard Gawn.

5-8 YEARS' PPE

Successful Pharmaceutical firm is offering a broad based role advising across a wide range of the company's activities. Experience of US reporting and especially M & A required. Competitive salary and package on offer. Ref: 3281. Contact: Richard Gawn.

NEWLY QUALIFIED

Friendly City-based practice has opportunities for newly qualified corporate lawyers. You are likely to be trained in a larger firm and be seeking a smaller and more cosy environment in which everyone is on first-name terms. High quality of work and life guaranteed. Experience of M & A, disposals, Stock Exchange and transactional matters will be a distinct advantage. Ref: 4377. Contact: Cleo Bluns.

2-4 YEARS' PPE

Top City Firm with a leading reputation for its litigation services seeks 2-4 years qualified commercial litigators. Your client base will be international therefore experience of multi-jurisdictional disputes will set you aside from the competition. You will be familiar with High Court, arbitration and ADR not afraid of advocacy! To join a very happy team with excellent support and on-going training. Ref: 4373. Contact: Cleo Bluns.



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opportunity for two additional lawyers to join this highly motivated team.

The first requirement is for a senior lawyer with experience of managing complex deals. Together with extensive experience of structuring, negotiating and executing transactions, you will have a commercial, pro-active and business driven approach. While you may be an M&A or corporate lawyer, we are also keen to meet lawyers with expertise in capital markets, or project, acquisition or asset finance.

The second requirement is for a lawyer with 3 to 5 years experience in one of the above disciplines, ideally with exposure to a variety

of complex transactions. This is a challenging role and you will need to be a motivated lateral thinker to maximise its potential.

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You will be joining a fast moving environment with real potential for career development. As you would expect, the remuneration packages are pitched specifically to attract individuals of the highest calibre.

If you are interested in discussing either opportunity in the strictest confidence, please contact Geraldine Hetherington at In-House Legal, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH. Tel: 0171 405 0151 (Daytime). Tel: 0171 642 0124 (Evening/Weekends). Fax: 0171 831 6498. E-mail: hwgroup@hwgroup.co.uk

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You will have a sound appreciation of the opportunities in our established fields or in a related business sector and will be able to make a positive contribution to the continuing success of the firm.

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For a leading trust company in the Bahamas, we are seeking an experienced and established individual to join our client services team. The successful candidate will be responsible for directing and managing the client services team, ensuring the highest quality of service to our clients. The role involves a high level of responsibility and a strong understanding of the trust industry. The successful candidate will be a member of the firm's senior management team.

The successful candidate will be responsible for directing and managing the client services team, ensuring the highest quality of service to our clients. The role involves a high level of responsibility and a strong understanding of the trust industry. The successful candidate will be a member of the firm's senior management team.

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Applicants should hold a law degree, AQB (trustee) Diploma, AGS or an equivalent professional qualification. At least six years' trust product and supervisory experience is essential. In addition, applicants should possess strong marketing and interpersonal skills and have the capacity to develop and manage an existing business in a competitive field.

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Underwood & Co is an established firm in the West End which has undergone considerable growth over the past few years particularly in the fields of commercial litigation and property.

We are now seeking a family/matrimonial lawyer to take over the caseload of a retiring partner and to develop further this aspect of our practice. The successful candidate will have a high reputation for expertise in all aspects of matrimonial law as well as the flair and personal skills needed for this challenging position.

Please write with CV to:

Bernard Dawson
Underwood & Co
40 Welbeck Street
London
W1M 8LN

FOX & GIBBONS + GIBRALTAR

Fox & Gibbons has an exciting opportunity for a dynamic, English qualified lawyer, to join its well established operation in Gibraltar (a full service offshore finance centre within the EU). This expanding international firm, with a unique network of offices in Istanbul, Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Oman, Cairo, Gibraltar and London, boasts a wide range of clients from many parts of the world, including major banks, governmental organisations, international and trust companies, entrepreneurs and private clients.

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You will play a leading role in a strong, well supported team, and continue the development of the firm's local and international reputation and practice. The work is largely offshore with an emphasis on banking and financial, trusts, tax and estate planning, company and commercial work. It offers the opportunity to handle litigation, property, shipping and insurance work. The firm places a high emphasis on client contact and development.

This is an excellent opening to join a highly successful, focused and expanding practice - the career prospects are excellent and the candidate must display partnership potential in the short to medium term. High living standards and an invigorating working environment will be complemented by an attractive remuneration package.

This appointment is being dealt with exclusively by Egan Janion Limited. Any direct or third party application will be referred to us.

For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Penny Tarradieu or Simon Janion on 01771 404 6669 (evenings/weekends 0181 870 4364), or write to us, enclosing your CV, at Egan Janion Ltd, 44/45 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1JL. For 0181 404 8817.

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- You will:
- Have a professional qualification and experience & expertise, including computer literacy.
 - Be a capable and confident lawyer, able to liaise effectively with clients, staff and external agencies at all levels.

Does this description sound like you? If so, with a positive attitude to change as well as being a hardworking team player who would enjoy the challenge of working in a multi-disciplinary team, please send your CV with a covering letter indicating current salary to: Ruth Tomlinson, Personnel Manager, Bacon & Woodrow, 25 W House, 55 East Street, Epsom, Surrey KT17 1BP.

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LEGAL/COMMERCIAL ADVISOR

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Central London

Attractive salary and benefits package

We are the major UK trade and employer association representing companies engaged in the engineering construction industry. Our 300 members include international contractors of world renown, as well as UK based SMEs, engaged in design, procurement, construction and project management. This is a pioneering role to establish contractual/legal and trade services to our members. Reporting to the Chief Executive, you will be responsible for:

- Advising and guiding members on the legal aspects of contract management
- Establishing and providing industry data to support members' commercial activities
- Providing and delivering related training and consultancy services
- Promoting members' commercial and legal interests with government and other bodies

You will be a qualified solicitor, ideally with a specialism in commercial contract law. You will preferably have direct experience within the construction industries and an understanding of their operations, terms of trade and underlying economics. An appreciation of relevant European procurement legislation would be an advantage. This is a unique opportunity to make a key contribution to the future development of the Association as a trade body and the enhancement of its role as the leading voice of the engineering construction industry.

Interested candidates should write with full CV, quoting current rewards package to: Andrew Lang, Hoggett Bowers, Amethyst House, Spring Gardens, Manchester M2 1EA. Tel: 0161 831 3322, Fax: 0161 832 0089, quoting ref: MAL/12627/TT.

ECIA

Engineering Construction Industry Association

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With 1997 proving to be yet another busy year in corporate finance, our client, a leading European investment bank, wishes to recruit additional top-flight corporate-finance executives.

As part of a non-hierarchical team you will advise corporate, government and institutional clients globally on mergers and acquisitions, flotations and listings, equity and debt finance, restructurings, privatisations, takeovers and disposals.

If you work for a leading law firm and want to be part of a dynamic and commercial environment, with a real input in the decision-making process, this could be the opportunity for you. You will be ambitious, committed to moving out of law, have an excellent academic record (preferably with A level mathematics), ideally combined with 1-2 years' ppe in corporate/banking transactions.

In addition to technical expertise, a lively sense of humour and the ability to be an effective team-player are essential. In return, highly-competitive remuneration packages are offered for those who can demonstrate flair and ability.

To discuss this opportunity in complete confidence, please telephone Claire Hine LLB (Hons). Alternatively, send your CV to her at the address below.

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- Extensive UK and international client base
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If you can demonstrate

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- an agile mind
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- a practical and constructive approach

and would like to find out more about our practice please contact...



our retained consultants Stephen Rodney, Jonathan Marden or Alison Jacobs on 0171-405 6062 (0171-226 4292 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JL. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

CORPORATE TAX

With clients like this top 10 City firm has, corporate tax lawyers are guaranteed some of the most interesting and challenging work around. You will also benefit from this firm's excellent training and career programme if you are either newly qualified or have 3-4 or 5-7 years' ppe. Ref: T14125

To £75,000

PROPERTY

This top 20 City firm is perfect for property lawyers with 1-4 years' ppe keen to gain top-notch experience and training. Positions open both for mainstream commercial property, and also for specialist back-up to the planning, environment and non-contentious construction groups. Ref: T40042

To £50,000

PENSIONS

The pensions department of this top 10 City firm is not just corporate support. It has a very substantial client base of its own and can offer well-trained lawyers from newly qualified to 2-3 years qualified the chance to work on all aspects of pensions work, both contentious and non-contentious. Ref: T17306

To £48,000

CONSTRUCTION

Construction lawyers from newly to five years qualified can lay the foundations for a top career at this very highly rated medium-sized City firm. You can expect excellent contentious and non-contentious experience on high profile matters, as well as good levels of responsibility. A very clever move. Ref: T36703

To £55,000

IP

This top 20 City firm has hit the headlines with some big deals in recent months as it goes from strength to strength. Its strong IP practice would represent a major step up for a lawyer with 1-2 years' ppe keen on contentious work. Pensions experience is useful but not essential. Ref: T39916

To £38,000

CORPORATE

The success of the well-known medium-sized City firm is easily judged by the new openings that have been created in its corporate department. This really is a very good opportunity for career advancement if you are a corporate, commercial or venture capital lawyer with 0-4 years' ppe. Ref: T25474

To £58,000

PROJECT FINANCE

Quite simply, this US firm is the place to be a project finance lawyer. It has an outstanding global reputation that will set you up for life, and its London office is at the hub of much of the world. Ideally you need 3-5 years' ppe, but an exceptional 2 year qualified could make the grade. Ref: T33160

To £Excellent

CORPORATE

This leading national firm can offer corporate lawyers with 0-5 years' ppe the perfect solution - City-quality work without the City hassle. Its rapidly expanding office in the Home Counties will involve you in a wide-range of corporate transactions in a team small enough to make your mark quickly. Ref: T29283

To £60,000

COMPETITION

Whether you are a competition lawyer with at least 2 years' ppe in relevant UK and European law or a newly qualified keen to get into this most cutting-edge of fields, this top 10 City firm is a great place to learn your trade. It offers young lawyers a superb package of salary, prospects and benefits. Ref: T31905

To £65,000

PROJECTS

This top 25 City firm has the portfolio to back up its claims to be one of the best project specialists around. It needs a senior lawyer with 3-7 years' ppe to handle projects/infrastructure work and as high profile clients. Also interested in one with 6 months' - 3 years' ppe with or without relevant experience. Ref: T40833

To £70,000

EMPLOYMENT

There are seriously good partnership prospects at this leading Home Counties firm for a senior employment lawyer with experience of both contentious and non-contentious work as well as a following. This position offers you both quality work and quality of life, a mix not easy to find in the City. Ref: T24489

To £Excellent

MEDIA & TECHNOLOGY

This top 20 City firm is at the cutting edge of hi-tech work, making it a great move for ambitious lawyers. It needs one with 3-6 years' ppe in IT/software work, and perhaps licensing and outsourcing. It is also interested in partners and senior solicitors for telecoms/digital media work. Following desirable, contacts essential. Ref: T19876

To £Partnership

BANKING

There are really good opportunities for well-trained associates with 2-4 years' ppe who join the banking department of this rapidly expanding top 10 City firm. Solicitors with experience of structured finance, supervision and regulation, and derivatives and capital markets, are especially welcome. Ref: T15596

To £57,000

OIL AND GAS

You could really strike oil by joining the high-rated energy group of this top 10 City firm. As a partner or exceptional senior assistant, you will be an oil and gas expert with particular knowledge of oil and gas exploration and production, as well as gas trading and transportation. Ref: T41126

To £Partnership



For further information, in complete confidence, please contact Sarah David, Stephen Rodney or Nick Peacock (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-405 6062 (0181-789 7704 or 0171-354 3079 evenings/weekends) or write to them at Quarry Douglall Recruitment, 37-41 Bedford Row, London WC1R 4JL. Confidential fax: 0171-831 6394.

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Our client is the corporate and investment banking arm of one of the largest and best capitalised financial services groups in the world. With some 7000 employees in 51 offices in 26 countries, they provide strategic advice, equity and debt financing, risk management, foreign exchange, and securities sales, training and research expertise to more than 3000 leading corporations and institutions worldwide.

They wish to recruit an additional qualified Chartered Secretary with around five years' experience, preferably gained in the financial services sector.

The successful candidate will provide advice

to the global network of subsidiaries, assisting in all aspects of company secretarial services. Particular responsibilities will include ensuring compliance with Companies Act requirements, assisting in the co-ordination of the annual report and accounts, and attending and minuting board meetings.

This is an ideal opportunity for a candidate with excellent technical and diplomatic skills who is interested in building a career in investment banking. An attractive salary will be offered for this high profile position together with a full range of banking benefits.

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The Cable Communications Association ("CCA") represents the interests of the UK cable companies domestically and across Europe. Working hand in hand with top executives in each of these member companies, the CCA has a key role in influencing the regulation of the industry at the very highest levels. The Director of Legal and Regulatory Affairs seeks two new assistants with between 1 and 2 years' commercial/competition experience.

- UK regulatory affairs: you will liaise closely with the UK regulatory authorities and will analyse and advise on regulatory initiatives in the telecommunications and audio-visual sectors. You will contribute proactively to the development of industry positions and responses.
- European affairs: you will liaise closely with the Commission and the Brussels based monitoring company addressing EC regulatory issues in the telecommunications and audio-visual sectors. You will represent the CCA at meetings, respond to regulatory initiatives and, inter alia, contribute proactively to new policy making.

Both positions require experience or a significant interest in multi-media. An appreciation of the commercial demands of the industry is also essential. The ability to speak one or more European languages is highly desirable for the European vacancy.

This is an ideal opportunity to make a first time move into the sector with immediate exposure to all of the member companies, and gain experience in a truly multi-media environment.

For further information in complete confidence please contact Lisa Hicks or Jonathan Bressner on 0171-523 3838 (0171-442 5237 evenings/weekends). Alternatively, write to them at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail lisa@zmb.co.uk. This assignment is being handled exclusively by ZMB and all direct and third party applications will be forwarded to them.

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

LONDON & U.S. LAW FIRMS

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

City practice, widely regarded as a market leader for property, requires a number of lawyers up to 7 years qualified to deal with top quality work in property, development and PFI issues. If you have an ongoing personality and are of partnership calibre, then you will enjoy good quality work, and an excellent remuneration package. (Ref.17264)

PROJECT FINANCE

While many US firms are struggling to establish themselves in London, our Client has already attracted several high grade English practitioners as part of a well thought out global strategy. The search for projects lawyers in London is now a high priority. A partner or exceptional senior solicitor, is sought with proven business development skills who can act as a focal point for the group. The firm is well placed to "lead" work as its UK lawyers in the early months. (Ref.1844)

MULTIMEDIA

Recently launched multi-media group at top City firm needs assistance at around the 3-6 year level with expertise in telecoms, cable and related media work. Pro-regulator is a genuine interest in the industry, a ruthlessly commercial approach and well honed negotiation skills. In-house lawyers contemplating a move back to private practice are actively encouraged to apply. (Ref.17967)

CORPORATE FINANCE

As a result of continued expansion and sustained high work levels, this leading international City firm needs a number of first class junior associates to join its successful corporate and finance practices. This is an opportunity to "step up a gear" and to work on ground breaking high profile transactions in a stimulating and challenging environment. (Ref.18372)

EMPLOYMENT

Employment team at progressive London practice is gaining increasing market share. Career expertise in both commercial and non-commercial areas, the team has been involved in some very high profile matters and the steady flow of new instructions has created the need for a talented 2-3 year qualified solicitor. You will considerable contribution for this type of work and reward client side. If you are clearly of partnership calibre, the firm will not hesitate to promote your career. (Ref.19835)

PREMIUM

INSOLVENCY

One of London's most profitable and progressive law firms is taking a long term view on insolvency. Planning for the next recession, it is looking for an insolvency lawyer who has the vision and commitment to spearhead the insolvency practice. The ideal candidate will be a sales making partner or partner designate who can demonstrate key links with accountants, banks and other financial bodies. You will be encouraged to build a team and make your mark here. (Ref.19440)

TAX

This leading international City firm is seeking high calibre tax assistance. Much of the work overlaps with corporate finance and banking, where the practice is firmly positioned as a market leader. For the right candidate, these positions offer genuine opportunities for steady career progression. Excellent support function creates a "can do" environment rarely found in the larger City firms. (Ref.19038)

CONSTRUCTION

One of the strongest national and international construction firms is seeking a number of 3-6 year qualified construction lawyers, to join the several well run highly motivated teams within its practice. The firm makes both fee earners and non-commercial construction specialists. The culture of the firm is young and progressive with opportunities for fast track career advancement. (Ref.19770)

IT

This IT practice of this highly regarded medium sized City firm has an excellent reputation. It is uniquely positioned to benefit from its proven international connections and is now making a top quality IT specialist with 2-3 years' experience of ideally, both commercial and non-commercial work. Prospects and remuneration will be attractive. (Ref.19149)

PENSIONS

Pre-eminent City firm seeks an solicitor with 1-3 years' relevant experience to join its well regarded pensions team. You will have an excellent academic background and must be able to demonstrate a thorough working knowledge of the pensions regime as you will be drafting and advising on new schemes, overseeing existing schemes and providing expert support on corporate transactions. Close link team, offering excellent training. (Ref.18808)

For further information on these, and the many other vacancies registered with us, please contact Yvonne Steyn, Andrew Golding or Martin Phillips (all qualified lawyers) on 0171-523 3838 (01923-46972 evenings/weekends) or write to us at ZMB, Recruitment Consultants, 37 Sun Street, London EC2M 2PY. Confidential fax 0171-523 3839. E-mail yvonne@zmb.co.uk

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CITY

INVESTMENT BANKING LAWYERS

ING Barings is one of the leading international financial institutions based in Europe. We provide a full range of advisory services in debt and equity, capital markets, mergers and acquisitions, and sales and trading of a wide range of financial instruments.

Our Debt and Derivatives Legal team in London is built on team loyalty and is characterised by an open, friendly and collegial culture, where the management style allows autonomy but gives immediate involvement where necessary.

The Debt and Derivatives Legal team is now looking to recruit three additional lawyers to work on capital markets and derivatives transactions. These appointments are a direct result of the continued expansion of ING Barings. If you want to be involved in developing and negotiating some of the most stimulating and innovative investment banking transactions, then ING Barings presents an exciting and rewarding challenge.

CAPITAL MARKETS

You will provide full legal and transaction management support for all aspects of the debt issuance, debt product and debt/equity securitisation businesses, often introducing products into developing markets for the first time. You will instruct external counsel and other key participants in the transactions and liaise in implementing and documenting these deals. You will liaise with other departments in our London and overseas offices and work closely with trading and marketing colleagues on the dealing floor.

Ideally you should have at least 2-4 years legal experience in capital markets or general banking/corporate finance areas including experience of managing parts of transactions.

DERIVATIVES

You will provide technical legal support to the businesses and operations and take a proactive role in collateral arrangements and international structuring. You must demonstrate clear and detailed knowledge of ISDA-based products and documentation and have a concrete understanding of the various transactional definitions. Ideally you should have at least 2-4 years legal experience in a city environment, whether in-house or in a law firm.

Our salary and benefits package is at the forefront of current market trends as we wish to attract individuals of the highest calibre with the energy and will to push themselves and ING Barings forward.

EXCELLENT

If you are interested in joining a company where personal development is encouraged at every level please contact our advising consultant, Guy M Hayward, at In-House Legal, 17 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4QH.
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Tel: 0181 673 4789 (Evening/Weekends).
Fax: 0171 831 6498.
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CAPITAL MARKETS LAWYER

3-6 years qualified salary to £120,000

Our client is an internationally recognised and highly prestigious law firm based in one of the world's leading financial centres. The firm's practice comprises the provision of advice and structuring in relation to all types of international financial transaction; their client base comprises leading international law firms, banks, trust companies and financial institutions based in Europe, North and South America and Asia.

They are currently looking for an ambitious capital markets lawyer for their London office. The position represents a superb opportunity for a competent and pro-active solicitor with between 3 and 6 years post qualification experience gained in the City. You will join a young but experienced team undertaking challenging work with a demanding mix. The financial rewards and long term career prospects are excellent and are driven by ability and performance.

For further information in complete confidence please contact Jane Foster at Laurence Simons International on 0171 831 3270.



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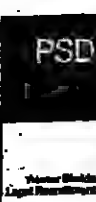
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Lions must be lauded for their positive thinking

BAA

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Sampras identified his quarter-final victory over Boris Becker as the cornerstone of his triumph. His sentiments served to amplify Becker's departure from Wimbledon. Three times a previous winner, Becker brought rare drama to the theatre of tennis: imperious on the way to

does not make it any better.

PAWSTAN A: First Innings: 163 (Haggar 94) 1st: Second Innings: 171 (Haggar 94) 94

DERBYSHIRE First Innings: 148 (A. S. Rolfe 51, Ashraf Mahmood 31) 3rd: 148

Second Innings:

A S Rolfe c Shoaib Akhtar 27
A Ashraf Mahmood c Ravi 10
M R May not out c A Huzar Rizvi 10
B J Mair c A Huzar Rizvi 10
A Ashraf Mahmood 12
G Ashraf c Javed Ghouse 12
A Ashraf Mahmood 4
V P Clarke not out 13
Emp to (2, 10 to 8 b) 4
Total (8 wickets) 222

FALL OF WICKETS 1-154, 2-203, 3-217

BOWLING Shoaib Akhtar 6-0-25-0
Anwar 17-4-43-0 c A Huzar Rizvi 2-0-42-1
A Ashraf 12-3-61-2
Mair 6-2-19-0
Wazim 6-2-19-0

Umpires T. J. Jevri and M. K. Memon

first direct

CYCLING: ITALIAN RETAINS YELLOW JERSEY AFTER TIMING FINISH TO PERFECTION

Cipollini stars in the longest day

FROM JEREMY WHITTLE
IN VIRE

MARIO CIPOLLINI overcame a lack of team support to assert his status as the leading sprinter in the world with a second successive stage win in the Tour de France yesterday.

The man of many nicknames, such as "Il Magnifico", the "Lion King" and "Super Mario", may not be a contender for final honours in Paris, but is, nonetheless, determined to make the most of the best form of his eight-year professional career.

"To wear the yellow jersey is the greatest honour of my career," Cipollini said after victory on the longest day of the Tour, through the Calvados region of Normandy. "I want to hold onto it until the race reaches the Pyrenees."

The Italian's win, his sixth in the Tour, came at the climax of a sultry 16-hour stage, covering 262 kilometres, and increased his overall lead over Chris Boardman, who prudently sat out the frenetic finishing sprint further back in the main field.

Cipollini had looked out of luck as the field sped into the final kilometre with one of his protective squad of team riders struggling after a crash and another dropping back on the approach to the uphill finish.

"I had a bad moment about 500 metres from the line," Cipollini said. "I was on my own and was boxed in against the barriers." Just as Erik Zabel, of Germany, looked to have victory within his grasp, though, Cipollini judged the final surge to perfection and moved clear of the Berliner to record another dazzling victory.

The flamboyant Italian, who rolled away from the start at the port of St Valéry-en-Caux dressed head to foot in yellow, took centre stage for most of the day, even though the unsung Frenchman, Thierry Gouvenou, let local pride get the better of him by



Cipollini leads the peloton during his second successive stage win yesterday

setting off on a suicidal break-away halfway through the stage.

Gouvenou, born here in Vire, set about honouring the Tour tradition of local riders attacking in their own region

and at one point led the race by almost five minutes. Cipollini, though, keen to make the most of his time in the limelight before the Tour reaches his dreaded high mountain passes, ordered his

Italian team-mates to chase down the Frenchman. With a weary Gouvenou finally recaptured on the undulating approach to Vire, an attack came from Laurent Jalabert, the world No 1, of France.

Jalabert's move spread temporary panic in the main field, but the straight, rolling roads leading to the finish put paid to his surprise attack.

With the memory of the crash in Forges-les-Eaux the previous day, one of the biggest in the history of the Tour, still fresh in many minds, most intrigue centred on tensions between the defending champion, Bjarne Riis, of Denmark, and his young German team-mate, Jan Ullrich, who was second overall in the Tour last year. Riis angrily rounded on his largely Ger-

TOUR DETAILS

SECOND STAGE (St Valéry-en-Caux to Vire, 262km) 1. M Cipollini (ITA) 5h 27m 47sec; 2. E Zabel (GER) 5h 28m 10s; 3. J Basso (ITA) 5h 28m 11s; 4. F Moncassin (FRA) 5h 28m 12s; 5. S Schuster (GER) 5h 28m 13s; 6. A Balle (ITA) 5h 28m 14s; 7. C Lampert (FRA) 5h 28m 15s; 8. H Voss (GER) 5h 28m 16s; 9. F Moncassin (FRA) 5h 28m 17s; 10. M Sørensen (DEN) 5h 28m 18s; 11. M Tassinari (ITA) 5h 28m 19s; 12. F Balle (ITA) 5h 28m 20s; 13. D Eusebio (ITA) 5h 28m 21s; 14. A Gontcharenko (RUS) 5h 28m 22s; 15. D Podolskiy (RUS) 5h 28m 23s; 16. F Sørensen (DEN) 5h 28m 24s; 17. C Renshaw (GBR) 5h 28m 25s; 18. J Ullrich (GER) 5h 28m 26s; 19. S Rasmussen (DEN) 5h 28m 27s; 20. L Jalabert (FRA) 5h 28m 28s; 21. S Rasmussen (DEN) 5h 28m 29s; 22. C Boardman (GBR) 5h 28m 30s; 23. S Rasmussen (DEN) 5h 28m 31s; 24. S Rasmussen (DEN) 5h 28m 32s; 25. S Rasmussen (DEN) 5h 28m 33s; 26. S Rasmussen (DEN) 5h 28m 34s; 27. S Rasmussen (DEN) 5h 28m 35s; 28. S Rasmussen (DEN) 5h 28m 36s; 29. S Rasmussen (DEN) 5h 28m 37s; 30. 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No politics, please, we're fashion designers

Having watched last week's television coverage of the Hong Kong handover to China, I found it hard not to come away with the feeling that Hong Kong's capitalist future, that the disheartening regime in Peking might yet grab the first excuse to renege on its promise of "One country, two systems". But, from Mao's New Suit (Changai 4, last night), it is clear that China has been operating a flourishing system of "one country, two systems" at home for some time already.

Guo Pei and her schoolfriend Sun Jian, young, self-employed fashion designers who would no more wear a Mao suit than bind their own feet — belong to a new generation of Chinese who are being quietly left alone to get on and make money. Guo Pei earns more in two months than her parents did in their whole working lives, "so they can't understand our

values. Young people today are not like their parents. They're not interested in politics. They want to make money, do business and advance their careers. They won't sacrifice their lives to politics. They won't give up their ambitions. Those days are gone."

The change has been dramatic even in the ten years since Guo Pei first started her working life in a children's clothing factory. "Back then women's fashion was heavily influenced by politics. Low-cut dresses were out. Everyone was just following the rules. They did what they were told. What a shame we in England missed out on that phase when clothes were 'heavily influenced' by politics. Maybe it isn't too late. Imagine the 'Blair Suit' he would insist on the same design for everyone in the party — but, hey, it would be a modern design. The Hague Suit, with turnups that fall just above the knee, would be available from

the school uniform department at Harrods and Peter Jones.

The energy of these two girls made life in BBC's *Omibus* on Hampstead Garden Suburb look pale and sultry. The 100-year-old Suburb was the idea of Dame Henrietta Barnett, a Victorian philanthropist who wanted to rescue Londoners from the squalid East End. Inspired by the Garden City Movement, she bought an estate "so that all classes could live in neighbourhoods together". Any quirky rules, Henrietta, such as no pubs, no commerce, and no walls or fences between the different classes, just hedges? Now that you mention it, all of those.

Now, of course, zoning laws and the tranquility created by not having drunks wandering around at chuck-out time on Friday nights, have made the area ever so middle-class and genteel. The sort of gentility whereby Peter

REVIEW



Joe Joseph

Loyd — Hampstead Garden Suburb's Neighbourhood Watch coordinator, 38 years a resident, former Royal Marine — might come up to you and say, "Ah, Caryl. Here is your free Neighbourhood Watch quiz, which you can do in the comfort of your own home, and if you get all the answers right, you can congratulate yourself on being a very worthy citizen" (What, no cash? Can you imagine: "Well

done for guessing all six numbers correctly," says Camelot. "You are a jolly worthy player.")

Lord McGregor of Durriss, former chairman of the Hampstead Garden Suburb Trust and of the Press Complaints Commission, confesses, "I thought it was a nasty, stuffy, suburban-looking place, and that, of course, is what it is." Let me explain: he says this as a compliment.

Excitement has finally reached the Suburb in the form of a proposal by orthodox Jews to establish an *eruv*, a nonional boundary that sets out an area within which you can carry personal items such as keys and prayer books or a headscarf on the Sabbath. It has met heavy local opposition: one suburb, two factions. But genteel factions. Sharon Maguire's documentary — cutting between rehearsals for the amateur dramatics production, prepara-

tions for a boy's bar mitzvah, an old lady whose hobby of feeding pigeons upsets her neighbours — was beautifully filmed. It was lyrically spliced together to give a sense of the area's pulse. The trouble is, the area has a slow pulse. It was all very pretty, but there was something lacking — as with the Suburb itself. You could feel your own breathing rate slow, the more you delved.

What this community needs is for Tony Kearsley, from Bolton, to move in with his family. Families. Tony has five children, two of them by his girlfriend, Sharon. Tony — the subject of *Last Woman on Earth* — is the latest in BBC2's *Wild Kingdom* season — is a convicted armed robber in his mid-thirties. After spending most of the past 15 years behind bars, he wants to go straight. This is proving tough for someone who stabbed his own

father at the age of 14 (I give him eight stitches) and who is finding it hard to find a job because he is doddled in tattoos ("People see it and they know straight away. Like. Obviously someone who's been in jail or a stupid idiot.")

But his real skill in the Suburb would be in ending all inter-community bickering, such as the dispute over the *eruv*. He has a tried and trusted technique, which we learnt about when Sharon suggests that "no man should hit a woman". Tony disagrees: "Some women need a slap. They do. When I was with that Lena and that, she had a mouth on her that she just wouldn't shut up. Like if I was having an argument and I say, right, that's it, shut up, I'm gonna smack you — you know, common sense tells you to shut up. But I don't think a lot of women have got a lot of common sense. He doesn't mean Dame Henrietta, does he? Call Peter Loyd. Quick.

BBC1

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (198717)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (1) (58175)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (1) (580882)
- 9.50 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (101008)
- 9.50 Killy (1) (581158)
- 10.30 Who'll Do the Pudding? (21525)
- 11.00 News (1) and weather (727334)
- 11.50 Day South (725808)
- 11.55 Good News (229917)
- 12.00 News (1) Regional News and weather (727342)
- 12.05pm Call My Bluff (545175)
- 12.30 News (1) (581594)
- 1.00 News (1) and weather (727334)
- 1.30 Regional News (278020)
- 1.40 Perry Mason: The Case of the Ruthless Reporter (1981) A television report to the family of a murder in a presenter, with Raymond Burr (1) (388224)
- 3.10 Quiz: The medical profession close ranks around a doctor whose young patient died while undergoing an abortion (1) (581158)
- 4.00pm Quiz (1) (581158)
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